

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 232**

**Senator Stott-Despoja asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2005:**

- a) Can the AFP explain why the drug seizures of federal agencies for 2003-04 in the present AFP report are substantially different to those attributed to the AFP in table 27 of the *Illicit drug data report 2003-04* of the Australian Crime Commission?
- b) Given the considerable differences, how is possible to obtain an accurate picture of what seizures are made by the AFP and other federal agencies and what seizures are made by State and Territory law enforcement agencies?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

- a) The caveats attached to both reports note that there will be differences between reported figures. Reasons for this include:
- Data for the AFP's 2003/04 Annual Report was extracted from PROMIS (which is a "live reporting system) in July 2004. Data for the ACC's 2003/04 Illicit Drug Data Report was extracted from PROMIS in September 2004. Data is corrected over time as weights are confirmed or otherwise and reporting errors are detected; and
  - Differences between the reporting categories used by the AFP and the ACC – for example, the ACC groups MDMA and ephedra alkaloids into its ATS category whereas the AFP reports separately on MDMA and precursors.
- b) The variations are not considerable in terms of weights of drugs seized and are explicable and understood within agencies. Data that is released is as accurate as it can be at the time given the nature of drug law enforcement and interdiction.