

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 241**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2005:**

- a) How much of the funding provided for the People Smuggling Strike Team has been expended?
- b) Has all funding been expended?
  - (i) If not, how much funding has yet to be expended?
- c) Was there any variation to the stated budget for this program?
  - (i) If so, what was the variation?
  - (ii) Was additional funding provided, or did the program lose funding?
  - (iii) If the program lost funding, where was the funding transferred, and why?
  - (iv) Were any stop-gap measures put in place to
- d) What was the stated outcome of the program at the time the funding commenced?
  - (i) Did the program meet its stated outcome?
  - (ii) If not, in which areas did it not meet its stated outcome?
  - (iii) Were any other measures or additional funding required to meet the stated outcome of the program?
- e) Has a review been conducted of the program?
  - (i) If so, could you provide a copy?
  - (ii) If not, why not?
  - (iii) Is one being conducted, or will one be conducted?
  - (iv) Are there any interim reports available?
  - (v) Are there any plans to produce any interim reports

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

- a) In the 2004-05 Budget, the Government provided the AFP \$17.4m over four years for the continuation of a People Smuggling Strike Team (PSST). To the end of October 2005, \$5.7m has been spent.
- b) No.
  - (i) \$11.7m of the \$17.4m funding remains unspent at the end of October 2005.
- c) No.
  - (i) Not applicable.
  - (ii) Not applicable.
  - (iii) Not applicable.
- d) The PSST was established in July 2000. The principle aims of the PSST are to detect, investigate, dismantle and disrupt organised people smuggling syndicates operating onshore and offshore and prosecute the offenders, as a component of the whole-of-government approach to this issue. The AFP and Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs formed the basis of the team with a Board of Management overseeing its strategic direction.

- (i) Yes.
- (ii) Not applicable.
- (iii) No.

e) Yes. In 2003 an internal AFP review was conducted in accordance with a set of generic terms of reference in order to assess the viability for the programs continued operation. The review found the model was essentially sound and continues to deliver on operational and policy goals and identified strong evidence in support of the appropriateness of the PSST to continue its effort in the fight against organised people smugglers.

- (i) No.
- (ii) It is an internal working document compiled to ensure work practices were developed to ensure operational outcomes from the joint PPST.
- (iii) A further review is scheduled to be undertaken as part of the 2008-09 budget process.
- (iv) No.
- (v) No.