

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 244

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

- a) How much of the funding provided for presence and support in Melanesia 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 ensure the continued operation of this program despite the variations?
- 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:

In the 2004-05 Budget, the Government provided the AFP \$20.3m over four years to continue its presence and support in Melanesia.

- a) To the end of October 2005, \$6.3m has been spent.
- b) No.
 - (i) \$14m of the \$20.3m funding remains unspent at the end of October 2005.
- c) No.
 - (i) Not applicable.
 - (ii) Not applicable.
 - (iii) Not applicable.
 - (iv) Not applicable.
- d) To continue work with Pacific law enforcement agencies to address transnational crime before it reached Australia.
 - (i) The program continues to meet its stated outcome.

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

e) A review of this program was undertaken in 2003-04 as part of the 2004-05 Budget process to seek renewal funding.

- (i) No.
- (ii) Not applicable.
- (iii) A further review is scheduled to be undertaken as part of the 2008-09 budget process.
- (iv) A component of the Melanesia Program funding is utilised by the Law Enforcement Cooperation Program (LECP) for the conduct of capacity building projects in the region. Interim reports are produced for the LECP approved projects and can be considered for release through written requests
- (v) In line with existing AFP business practices, the component of funding that is utilised by LECP for LECP approved projects will continue to be subject to internal reviews including future internal audits.