

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 251

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

- a) How much of the funding provided for the Air Security Officer program 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:

- a) Total funding provided for Aviation Security new measures is detailed in the table below.

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Budget	\$20.7m	\$30.5m	\$31.3m	\$39.47m	\$40.22m

\$162.1m has been spent on Aviation Security, including the Air Security Officer (ASO) Program between 2001-02 and 31 October 2005.

- b) No.
- (i) \$29.7m of total funding till 30 June 2005-06 remains unspent.
- c) Yes.
- (i) The Government has continued to expand the AFP's role in Aviation Security.
 - (ii) As part of the 2004-05 Budget and Additional Estimates, the Government provided the AFP with an additional \$32.3m over 4 years to allow the expansion of the ASO program to priority international destinations.
 - (iii) Not applicable.
 - (iv) Not applicable.
- d) The stated outcome of the program was to prevent the hijacking of Australian registered aircraft.
- (i) Yes.
 - (ii) Not applicable.
 - (iii) No. The additional funding was specifically provided to the ASO program in the 2004-05 Budget and 2004-05 Additional Estimates to allow expansion of the ASO program to priority international destinations based on intelligence and risk assessments.
- e) Yes. Two reviews of the program have been conducted:
- The first review, 'Stevenson Review', was conducted in 2003.
 - In 2004 a joint agency review was conducted involving Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS), Department of Finance, Australian Federal Police (AFP), Attorney-General's Department (AGD), and Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.
 - A third review is to be conducted by independent consultants engaged by the AFP. The terms of reference for this review are currently being finalised.
- (i) Due to the sensitive operational contents of the review a copy is not available.
 - (ii) Due to the sensitive operational contents of the review a copy is not available.
 - (iii) The terms of reference for a third review are yet to be finalised.
 - (iv) As the review is yet to commence there are no interim reports.
 - (v) There are no plans to produce interim reports.