SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 281

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

a) How many times the police consultative group on missing persons has met this year?
b) What recommendations it made?
c) Has it produced any reports?
d) What were its activities this year?
e) Has the national missing persons unit started any initiatives this year?
f) Has it funded any new programs?
g) Has it coordinated new programs from the other states?
h) Has it produced any reports?

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

a) The Police Consultative Group on Missing Persons (PCGMP) met on 16 and 17 June 2005. The PCGMP is chaired by the AFP. All State and Territory Police Missing Persons Units are represented on the Group.

b) The recommendations were:

   - That the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) be invited to address the next meeting of the PCGMP to discuss DFAT procedures and gain an understanding of Missing Person Unit procedures;

   - That the AFP raise the issue of missing persons with the Attorney-General's Department to propose amendments to the *Commonwealth Privacy Act* in relation to accessing personal information to assist in the location of missing persons;

   - That written representation be made to the Privacy Commissioner by the PCGMP highlighting legislative constraints regarding the release of information from Commonwealth government agencies to police services to assist in the location of missing persons; and

   - That the National Missing Persons Unit (NMPU) coordinate a consolidated response from PCGMP regarding the CrimTrac Police Reference System Minimum Nationwide Person Profile (CPRS MNPP) enhancements trial.

c) No.

d) Consolidated response to the evaluation of the CPRS MNPP.

e) During the year the NMPU collaborated with the Foxtel Crime and Investigation Network to regularly broadcast missing person cases nominated by state and territory missing persons units.

f) No.

g) No.

h) No.