

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 292

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

- a) Regarding the counter-terrorism regional engagement teams, in May it was indicated that the AFP was undertaking feasibility studies to determine the need and demand for the AFP to be present in 4 countries namely Bangladesh, Laos, India and Sri Lanka. Could the AFP please provide an update as to what the AFP have done since then regarding the feasibility studies?
 - (i) Are they completed?
 - (ii) If so, what was their outcome?
 - (iii) If not, when are they due to be completed?
 - (iv) What is the usual timeframe for this sort of feasibility study?
- b) Has the AFP begun to establish counter-terrorism regional engagement teams in any of those countries? If not, why not?
- c) Have any AFP officers been deployed overseas to the Counter-Terrorism Regional Engagement Teams or to facilitate the creation of the Regional Engagement Teams?
- d) What is the time frame for the establishment of the regional engagement teams in these countries?
- e) Could you indicate any costs that have so far been expended on these teams, and provide a breakdown of the costs?

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

- a)(i) Yes.
 - (ii) It was recommended that consideration be given to enhancing liaison and cooperation in all countries, in particular India.
 - (iii) Not applicable.
 - (iv) 3-4 months.
- b) No. Upon review of reports and recommendations, counter terrorism regional cooperation teams were not deemed appropriate in those countries.
- c) Yes. One team cooperates with the Philippines National Police. The other team is a multi-lateral team based in Indonesia.
- d) Not applicable.
- e) \$2.37m since 1 January 2005.
 - a. \$1.71m – bilateral team in Philippines
 - b. \$0.66m – multi-lateral team in Indonesia