

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Output 2.4**

**Question No. 79**

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

- a) Could you provide a list of the subcommittees and working groups constituted under the National Counter Terrorism Committee and their meeting dates, agendas and participation?
- b) Could you indicate what national policy and operational seminars, forums and workshops have been held?
- c) Could you indicate:
  - (i) What their topics were?
  - (ii) Who was invited?
  - (iii) Who accepted?
  - (iv) What the criteria was for invitation?
  - (v) Were any open invitation?
  - (vi) What their topics were?
  - (vii) How these topics were selected?
  - (viii) What were the costs of each of those?
  - (ix) For any of those were any external firms engaged to help run them, if so, how much were provided to those firms?
  - (x) Was a tender process used for them?
  - (xi) Was it an open or closed tender process?
  - (xii) If it was a closed tender process, why was it a closed process who was invited to tender and how were they chosen?

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

(a) The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) has primary responsibility for national counter-terrorism policy coordination and provides the secretariat for the National Counter-Terrorism Committee (NCTC) and the National Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Committee (NCTC EC). Table 1 lists those NCTC sub-committees and working groups that have been held since 2004-05. The agendas of the sub-committees and working groups are generally classified. Together, they provide a significant understanding of key issues associated with the national counter-terrorism capability and are therefore not made public. Instead, the general purpose of each sub-committee or working group has been included in Table 1.

(b) Table 2 lists those NCTC operational seminars, forums and workshops that have been held since 2004-05 for which the Attorney-General's Department has responsibility for coordination and/or operation.

(c) (i) and (vi) The topics of the seminars, forums and workshops are generally classified. Together, they provide a significant understanding of key issues associated with the national counter-terrorism capability and are therefore not made public. Instead, the title of each seminar, forum and workshop has been included in Table 2.

(ii) (iii) (iv) and (v) The NCTC agrees to the participants of seminars, forums and workshops. Participation is based on the issues to be considered. None are open invitation. Table 2 lists the participants of seminars, forums and workshops.

(vii) The NCTC agrees the topics to be considered by seminars, forums and workshops based on consideration of the strategic and operational environment and needs.

(viii) Table 2 lists the cost of each seminar, forum and workshop.

(ix) (x) (xi) and (xii) No external firms were engaged in the conduct of the seminars, forums and workshops.

**Table 1**

<b>NCTC Sub-committee / Working Groups</b>	<b>Meeting Dates since 2004-05</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
National Counter-Terrorism Committee (NCTC)	14 September 2004, teleconference 7-8 December 2004, Melbourne 17-18 May 2005, Sydney 8 July 2005, teleconference 18-19 July 2005, Melbourne 22 July 2005, teleconference 3 October 2005, teleconference The next meeting is planned for Brisbane 14-15 December 2005.	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) (Co-chair) Representation from each State/Territory First Minister's Department Police Deputy Commissioner from each jurisdiction Attorney-General's Department (AGD) Protective Security Coordination Centre (PSCC) Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) Australian Federal Police (AFP) Department of Defence (Defence) Department of Finance and Administration Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Emergency Management Australia (EMA) New Zealand Government (observer)	The mission of the NCTC is to contribute to the security of the Australian community through the coordination of a nation-wide cooperative framework to counter terrorism and its consequences. The objectives of the NCTC are to contribute to the security of the Australian community through: (a) providing expert strategic and policy advice to heads of government and other relevant ministers (b) ensuring an effective nation-wide counter-terrorism capability is maintained, and (c) reporting annually to the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers on Australia's counter-terrorism preparedness and capability.
National Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Committee (NCTC EC)	13 July 2004, Adelaide 31 August 2004, Sydney 9 November 2004, Brisbane 22 February 2005, Adelaide 5 April 2005, Melbourne 30 August 2005, Adelaide 21 November 2005, Melbourne	PM&C (Chair) One NCTC member from each State or Territory (Police or First Minister's Department) AGD PSCC ASIO AFP Defence DOTARS EMA	The NCTC is supported by an Executive Committee which provides strategic advice to the NCTC at the higher policy level by making recommendations on national counter-terrorism policies, capabilities and strategies, including the allocation of priorities in the NCTC program.
Capability Sub-Committee (CSC)	9-11 August 2004, Sydney 15-17 February 2005, Canberra 17-19 August 2005, Darwin	South Australia Police (Chair) Police representation from each jurisdiction PSCC ASIO	The CSC provides advice to the NCTC on the operational level development and management of Australia's national counter-terrorism capabilities in order to

NCTC Sub-committee / Working Groups	Meeting Dates since 2004-05	Participants	Purpose
		EMA Australian Defence Force (ADF) DOTARS (observer) A First Minister's representative (VIC) Invited advisers/observers as required	achieve 'best practice'.
Australian Secure Network (ASNET) Working Group (AWG)	25 August 2004, Canberra 16 March 2005, Canberra 30 September 2005, Canberra 25 November 2005, Canberra	AGD (Chair) PSCC ASIO Defence NSW Police Tasmania Premier's Department Observers from PSCC and AGD	The AWG provides advice to the NCTC on the strategic development and direction of ASNET based on the direction approved by the NCTC and makes recommendations to the NCTC on issues relating to the overall management and funding arrangements for the ongoing effective operation of ASNET.
National Spatial Information for National Security (NSINS) Working Group	12 April 2005, Canberra 21 July 2005, Melbourne 24 November 2005, Perth	PSCC (Chair) AGD Geoscience Australia Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety NT Department of Planning and Infrastructure WA Department of Land Information QLD Department of Emergency Services SA Department of Environment and Heritage NSW Department of Lands VIC Department of Sustainability and Environment TAS Department of Primary Industry, Water and Environment Australian Local Government Association Australia New Zealand Land Information Council (ANZLIC) Police representation from each jurisdiction and NZ	The NSINS Working Group considers and facilitates the use of geospatial information in support of counter-terrorism, critical infrastructure protection and emergency management across, within and between States, Territories, local government and the Australian Government.
Media Advisory Group (MAG)	28 September 2004, Canberra 2 February 2005, Canberra 26 May 2005, Canberra	AGD Director Public Affairs (Chair) PSCC ASIO ADF	The MAG provides a coordinated whole-of-government approach to counter-terrorism media arrangements including media and public information

NCTC Sub-committee / Working Groups	Meeting Dates since 2004-05	Participants	Purpose
		AFP EMA Media representation from each jurisdiction	capability training and ongoing review of the National Security Public Information Guidelines.
Legal Issues Sub-Committee (LISC)	28 July 2005, teleconference 25 August 2005, Sydney 9 September 2005, Canberra 11 October 2005, Canberra	AGD (Chair) PM&C (11/10/2005) ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety (25/8/2005) NT Department of Justice SA Attorney-General's Department SA Department of Premier and Cabinet NSW Premier's Department NSW Attorney-General's Department QLD Department of the Premier and Cabinet QLD Department of Justice and Attorney-General VIC Department of Justice VIC Department of Premier and Cabinet WA Department of Premier and Cabinet (9/11/2005) TAS Department of Justice Australian Customs Service (25/08/2005) Norfolk Island Crown Counsel (28/7/2005) Defence (9/11/2005) Police representation from jurisdictions	The LISC develops a nationally consistent approach to counter-terrorism legal issues and legislation and provides advice to Commonwealth, State and Territory governments in the event of a terrorist incident.
Crisis Centre Intercommunications Working Group (CCIC WG)	10 June 2005, Adelaide 15 November 2005, Canberra	PSCC (Chair) AGD QLD Department of Premier and Cabinet SA Department of Premier and Cabinet VIC Department of Premier and Cabinet ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety NSW Police Kaz Technologies (15/11/2005)	The CCIC WG has been established to assess the effectiveness of communication between the crisis centres.

**Table 2**

<b>Operational Seminar / Forum / Workshop</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Dignitary Protection Forum	28-30 July 2004	Police representation from each jurisdiction Representative from each State/Territory government PSCC DFAT PM&C NZ Police (observer)	\$25 000
Counter-Terrorism Intelligence Managers' Forum	12-14 October 2004	Police representation from each jurisdiction PSCC ASIO AFP ADF Australian Customs Service NZ Police (observer)	\$25 000
Bomb Response Course Workshop	20-22 October 2004	Police representation from each jurisdiction PSCC AFP ADF	\$35 000
Bomb Response Managers' Forum	16-19 November 2004	Police representation from each jurisdiction PSCC AFP ADF	\$25 000
Bomb Scene Examination Managers' Forum	2-3 December 2004	Police representation from each jurisdiction PSCC AFP ADF DSTO	\$25 000

<b>Operational Seminar / Forum / Workshop</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Counter-Terrorism Negotiators' Forum	13-15 December 2004	NSW Police WA Police Vic Police QLD Police NT Police PSCC AFP NZ Police (observer)	\$25 000
Executive Command Forum	13-14 December 2004	Police representation from each jurisdiction PSCC	\$25 000
Exercise Management Forum	30 March to 1 April 2005	Police representation from each jurisdiction ACT Government NSW Government QLD Government NSW Fire Brigade QLD Emergency Services WA Emergency Services PSCC PSCC AFP ASIO ADF Department of Transport and Regional Service EMA	\$25 000
Dignitary Protection Forum	1-3 June 2005	Police representation from each jurisdiction Representative from each State/Territory government PSCC PM&C DFAT NZ Police (observer)	\$25 000

Operational Seminar / Forum / Workshop	Date	Participants	Cost
Dignitary Protection Workshop	14-17 June 2005	NSW Police QLD Police SA Police Vic Police WA Police NSW Ambulance PSCC AFP EMA	\$27 000
Crisis Centre Forum	29-30 June 2005	SA Department of Premier and Cabinet VIC Department of Premier and Cabinet QLD Department of Premier and Cabinet ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety PSCC Attorney-General's Department	\$25 000
Evaluation Reference Group Workshop	26-29 September 2005	Police representation from each jurisdiction PSCC	\$5 000