

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 129

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2006:

(a) Could the AFP also provide a table detailing the recruitment target versus actual recruitment as well as an explanation for the variation for all recruiting periods since 2001-02 inclusive? The AFP should provide its response broken down by the same level of detail as given in the hearing the Senate's Legal and Constitutional Affairs Standing Committee on 16 October (page 9) by Commissioner Keelty with regard to the "listed recruiting shortfall for 2005-06."

(b) Could the AFP also indicate the size of under spend associated with any shortfall and indicate what has happened with that money.

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

(a) In both the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 financial years, the AFP exceeded its recruitment targets. In the financial years 2003-2004 to 2005-2006 inclusive, the AFP fell short of its recruitment targets.

In 2001-2002 the AFP exceeded its target by 46, allowing it to move into the next financial year in a fully staffed position.

In the 2002-2003 the AFP exceeded its recruitment target by 43 staff. In the same financial year, the AFP recorded a financial deficit in its operations, due in part to the increase of initially planned recruitment.

The following table shows the detail for the recruitment shortfalls in 2003-2004 to 2005-2006 financial years

F/Y	AES	Ann Rept	Difference	Comment
2003-04	4734	4651	83	PNG expected but not progressed
2004-05	4901	4778	123	Based on specialist recruitment
2005-06	5606	5150	456	PNG, Aviation, Specialist, CBRN,

List of Recruiting Shortfall for 2005-06		
Aviation (51.4 of 254)		204
PNG		126
Specialist F&T		32
Specialist Intell		20
CBRN		9
Operation Wickenby		10
Sudan		10
Base police		18
ACT Policing (810 out of 833)		23
General enabling		4
		456

List of Recruiting Shortfall for 2004-05	Specialist F&T	63
	Specialist Intell	60
		123
List of Recruiting Shortfall for 2003-04	Enabling	27
	PNG (after allowing for planning)	56
		83

(b) Details relating to the size of underspends associated with recruitment are:

For the year 2003-04:

\$14.4m for PNG related salaries was retained and returned to budget in 2004-05; this related to 56 ASL.

All other salary related underspend (approximately \$3m) became part of retained surpluses.

For the year 2004-05:

\$135m was returned to budget for PNG; and approximately \$11m for shortfalls in recruitment for specialist positions.

In addition to the recruitment shortfall in 2004-05 of 123, the AFP also did not recruit planned staffing of 95 for the IDG. This was due to the withdrawal of IDG from PNG due to a failure of adequate legal cover for Australian police serving in PNG.

This staffing of 95 for the IDG was not included in the AEs estimate provided in February 2005 for the 2004-05 financial year, due to the uncertain PNG situation at the time.

For the year 2005-06:

Return of \$135m was returned to budget for PNG;

\$30.7m was returned to budget for Aviation Security; and

All other salary related underspend became part of retained surpluses (approximately \$12m).