

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN TRANSACTION REPORTS AND ANALYSIS CENTRE

Question No. 140

Senator Stott-Despoja asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2006:

The AUSTRAC Annual Report reveals that FTR information contributed to more than \$90.7 million in Australian Tax Office assessments during 2005-06.

- (a) Can AUSTRAC confirm how much of this fell into the category of 'serious and organized crime' put forward consistently as the focus of, and justification for, the FTRA reporting regime.
- (b) What proportion of the access by 'partner agencies' is now accounted for by agencies Centrelink and the Child Support Agency, for whom very few investigations could reasonably be described as into 'serious or organised crime'.

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

(a) The information provided to AUSTRAC by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) attributes \$90.7 million in additional tax assessments in 2005 – 2006 as relating to the use of FTR Information. ATO does not advise AUSTRAC of the proportion relating to 'serious and organised crime'.

(b) The proportion of access by the Child Support Agency as at the 10 November 2006 was 2.1 percent of the total number of registered online users for all partner agencies.

The proportion of access by Centrelink as at 10 November 2006 was 1.35 percent of the total number of registered online users for all partner agencies.