

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

**Question No. 23**

**Senator Ludlam asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2011:**

**Mr Negus:**... During 2011-12 the AFP has 53 dedicated officers to conduct child protection operations. We talked about this earlier in the day but at any time the AFP can bring people into and out of particular areas of investigation as the need arises. For instance, we could have 400 people working on a counterterrorism operation yet there are 149 working in that portfolio. It is matter of what the priorities are. In 2010-11 there were a total of 98,669 hours expended on incident types relating to child protection operations. Almost 100,000 hours were expended in child protection operations. Nearly 56,000 of those were from the High-Tech Crime Operations area. Almost half again is from our generalist investigative pool with Assistant Commissioner Gaughan's specialists providing half of that total.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Are you quoting from the PBS?

**Mr Negus:** No, it is from an internal brief. A total of 576 members from across the AFP contributed to these hours. If you think about the number of investigators we have, almost 600 of them at some stage worked on child protection operations throughout the year. I talked before about it being an ever-growing problem and it is something we are really focusing on with something like 750-plus apprehensions since 2005 when the High Tech Crime Operations portfolio was put in place, and over 1,000 charges.

...

**Senator LUDLAM:** Could I ask you to table whatever part of the briefing you have got that is suitable for public release.

**Mr Negus:** Yes, absolutely.

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

The AFP is committed to combating the exploitation of children and takes the crimes of creating, possessing and distributing child abuse material very seriously. This is a key objective of the High Tech Crime Operations (HTCO) portfolio.

Initial funding was derived from the Government's *Cyber Safety* measure announced in the 2008-09 budget. Announced as a four year measure, the funding has, subsequent to the Beale Review, rolled into AFP base ongoing funding.

Initial AFP funding for the *Cyber Safety* measure was \$49M over four years (2008 - 2012). During 2011-12 the AFP has a budget allocation for 53 dedicated officers to combat child protection operations. At any time, as operational activity requires, the AFP can draw on the wider AFP workforce to deliver outcomes.

In 2010-11 a total of 98,669 hours were expended on incident types related to Child Protection Operations (CPO) (55,716 of which were from within HTCO). A total of 576 members from across the AFP (130 from HTCO) contributed to these hours.

In June 2011 AFPs CPO team charged 11 men in a nationwide operation, as well as removed two children at risk from harm. The men have been charged with offences relating to using a carriage service to access, transmit and posses child exploitation material. These offences carry maximum penalties of between 10 and 15 years imprisonment.

Child Protection Operations within the High Tech Crime Operations portfolio has seen a continual increase in the use of the internet to commit child exploitation offences. The following data is provided for the information of the Committee:

### **Compilation of Child Sex Offences Apprehension Statistics**

#### **Child Sex Offences - Apprehension Statistics: 1 March 2005 – 30 September 2011**

The statistics below include 'clear by' arrests and summons.

<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Arrest/Summons</b>
Combined Child Sex Offences	757 offenders for 1031 charges
Child Sex Offences – Online Child Sex Exploitation	692 offenders for 927 charges
Child Sex Offences – Not Child Sex Tourism	35 offenders for 43 charges
Transnational - Child Sex Tourism	30 offenders for 61 charges

#### **Child Sex Offences - Apprehension Statistics: YTD - 1 January 2011 – 30 September 2011**

The statistics below include 'clear by' arrests and summons.

<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Arrest/Summons</b>
Combined Child Sex Offences	118 offenders for 149 charges
Child Sex Offences – Online Child Sex Exploitation	115 offenders for 143 charges
Child Sex Offences – Not Child Sex Tourism	1 Offender for 1 charge
Transnational - Child Sex Tourism	2 Offender for 5 charge

#### **Child Sex Offences - Apprehension Statistics: September 2011**

The statistics below include 'clear by' arrests and summons.

<b>Incident Type</b>	<b>Arrest/Summons</b>
Combined Child Sex Offences	8 offenders for 8 charges
Child Sex Offences – Online Child Sex Exploitation	8 offenders for 8 charges
Child Sex Offences – Not Child Sex Tourism	No Charges
Transnational - Child Sex Tourism	No Charges