

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION

**Question No. 12**

**Senator Humphries asked the following questions at the hearing on 16 October 2012:**

**Senator HUMPHRIES:** Is it possible to measure the proportion of the commission's work that is now going into people smuggling compared with two or three years ago?

**Mr Lawler:** We would be able to document and report on the amount of money expended against the determination under which people smuggling occurs. To give you an idea, a financial year spend as of September 2012 on people smuggling was \$375,377, and that was principally expended through a number of examinations—16 in total—that were conducted.

**Senator HUMPHRIES:** Would those kinds of expenditure of resources be greater or less than was the case, say, three years ago?

**Mr Lawler:** To be accurate, I would need to take that on notice.

...

**Mr Lawler:** There is. In response to one of the questions, I think from Senator Humphries, I indicated that the sum of \$375,377 had been expended by the commission in the financial year up to September 2012 on people smuggling. I would like to correct that. That spend relates to a special operation—the national security impacts from serious and organised crime, special operations, under which people smuggling falls. That is the spend for that particular determination, which includes complex organised technology-enabled crimes, terrorism and some other matters, so it is not that total spend. I want to correct the record on that in case I may have misled the committee.

**Senator HUMPHRIES:** So there is other spending by the commission on other aspects of people smuggling, is that what you are saying?

**Mr Lawler:** Under the board-approved determination that I just read out, it includes terrorism and people smuggling. So the total spend, including complex organised technology-enabled crimes, of \$375,000 is not exclusively on people smuggling.

**Senator HUMPHRIES:** But outside that determination there is no other spending on people smuggling?

**Mr Lawler:** No.

**Senator HUMPHRIES:** Okay.

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

The ACC's expenditure of resources against people smuggling matters is currently greater than it was three years ago.

The Australian Crime Commission's National Security Impacts from Serious and Organised Crime (NSISOC) Special Operation was approved by the ACC Board on 15 June 2011, and will continue until June 2014. This Special Operation encompasses people smuggling, border integrity, complex organised technology enabled crime, and other matters. To date, seventeen examinations to support people smuggling investigations have been conducted under the NSISOC Special Operation.

Prior to the NSISOC Special Operation, on 9 June 2010, the ACC Board approved a Special Intelligence Operation specific to People Smuggling, which was conducted until 30 June 2011. Sixteen examinations to support people smuggling investigations were conducted under the auspices of this determination.

While people smuggling matters have been identified in the course of other ACC Operations and Investigations, the ACC did not have a designated Special Intelligence Operation specifically targeting people smuggling prior to 9 June 2010.