

Committee Secretary,

The AFP is currently preparing responses to the Questions taken on notice during the AFP's appearance on 6 March 2007, before the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration's Inquiry into the Human Services (Enhanced Service Delivery) Bill 2007.

The AFP was unaware that the Committee required the responses by 9 March 2007 and was awaiting further Questions on Notice as indicated during the hearing. It has been brought to our attention however that the Committee require a response to Senator Mason's Question: 'Can the AFP provide to the committee details of the research organisations and their research leading to the Commissioner's statement that identity theft in Australia costs between \$1 billion and \$4 billion annually?'

As an initial response to this Question the AFP can state the following:

The cost of identity theft in Australia has been estimated by various research bodies including:

- the Securities Industry Research Centre of Asia-Pacific (SIRCA) (including: SIRCA's 2003 report for AUSTRAC '*Identity Fraud in Australia*');
- PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC); and
- Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) (including: AIC and PWC , 2003 , *Serious Fraud in Australia & New Zealand* , Research and Public Policy Series No.48 ; Smith.R.G, 1997 , *Measuring the Extent of Fraud in Australia*' , Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice No.74 .

The AFP will provide a formal response to Questions on Notice on Monday 12 March 2007. If I can be of further assistance in the meantime, please advise.

Yours Sincerely
Michelle Gear

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