

SENATE
MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND CUSTOMS
(Question No.)

Senator Ludwig asked the Minister for Justice and Customs, upon notice on 23 February 2005-

Of the trafficking victims identified by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) or Department of Immigration (DIMIA) since the introduction of the trafficking package in October 2003, how many have assisted the AFP? How many of those who offered assistance has been deported?

Senator Ellison—The Minister for Justice and Customs has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

The AFP has assessed a total of 38 trafficked victims since the introduction of the package in 2003. Of these, 31 have provided assistance to the AFP. Some victims, who were unable to assist police or who preferred to return to their home country, were repatriated.

As of 21 February 2005, 18 women had been repatriated from Australia, all to Thailand. To provide further assistance to repatriated victims, the AFP engages the assistance of the Thai Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSDW) Anti Trafficking Unit. Of the 18 repatriated women, 10 are witnesses for AFP prosecutions.