



Media Release

Senator Mathias Cormann

SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

09/1001/M

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FEDERAL POLICE RESOURCES – WA: DOWN 10% - QUEENSLAND: UP 30%

Western Australia's ability to fight organised crime has been dealt another debilitating blow by the Rudd Government, with savage cuts to the number of AFP officers in the State.

Data obtained by WA Senator Mathias Cormann revealed the number of AFP officers in WA has been slashed by nearly 10 per cent in 12 months – the largest cut of any State.

“AFP numbers in WA declined from 106 to 96 in the Rudd Government's first year of office, whilst overall numbers have increased by 8 per cent, or more than 200 officers, nationally” Senator Cormann said.

“At the same time as imposing cuts in WA, the number of AFP officers in the Prime Minister's home state of Queensland has been boosted by a staggering 30 per cent,” he said.

This follows revelations last December that the Rudd Government had halved the number of Australian Crime Commission Intelligence Analysts in Western Australia.

“The Rudd government seems to think that major crime stops at Eucla,” Senator Cormann said.

“Western Australia has the fastest growing population of any State in Australia.

“Queensland's population is also growing and it gets a 30 per cent increase in AFP resources – how can the Rudd Government then justify a 10 per cent cut to Western Australia?”

“Apart from Queensland being the Prime Minister's home state, there is a State election coming up with an incumbent Labor Government in trouble.

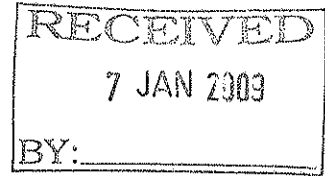
“The Rudd Government should stop playing politics with the resourcing of the AFP, and ensure the fight against organised crime in WA, including drug trafficking, people smuggling, fraud, high tech crimes and money laundering is properly resourced.

“Proper resourcing of both the AFP and the Australian Crime Commission in WA is essential if Australia's crime fighting efforts are to be effective in confronting the scourge of national and trans-national crime.”

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Enc. Senate Question: 1049

SENATE QUESTION



QUESTION NUMBER: 1049

Senator Cormann asked the Minister representing the Minister for Home Affairs, upon notice, on 2 December 2008:

- (1) How many sworn officers were employed by the Australian Federal Police (AFP), as at: (a) 1 November 2007; and (b) 1 November 2008.
- (2) How many sworn officers were recruited by the AFP between 24 November 2007 and 24 November 2008.
- (3) How many sworn officers were made redundant by the AFP between 24 November 2007 and 24 November 2008.
- (4) How many sworn officers is the AFP budgeted to recruit by 31 December 2009.
- (5) Does the AFP anticipate any further redundancies as a result of the Rudd Government's efficiency dividend between 2 December 2008 and 31 December 2009; if so, how many.
- (6) For questions (1) to (5) above, can a breakdown be provided by state or territory of the number of sworn officers employed, recruited or made redundant during the indicated periods.

Senator Wong - The Minister for Home Affairs has provided the following answer to the honourable senator's question:

- (1) (a) and (b) Sworn⁽¹⁾ officers employed by the AFP as at 1 November 2007 and 1 November 2008

Location	1/11/2007	1/11/2008	
ACT	1234	1369	+10.9%
SA	58	54	+ 7.9%
NT	34	64	+ 88%
Overseas	227	272	+19.8%
QLD	186	244	+31.2%
WA	106	96	- 9.4%
External Territories	9	11	+22.2%
TAS	8	10	+25%
VIC	325	300	- 7.7%
NSW	468	451	- 3.6%
Total	2655	2871	+ 8.1



(1) Excludes state police seconded to the AFP

- (2) Sworn⁽²⁾ officers recruited⁽³⁾ by the AFP between 24 November 2007 and 24 November 2008

Location	
ACT Policing	185
National	49
IDG Mission Component	123
Total	357

(2) Excludes state police seconded to the AFP

(3) Includes members graduating during the reference period

(3) Sworn officers made redundant by the AFP between 24 November 2007 and 24 November 2008

Location	
ACT	23
NSW	7
Overseas	1
QLD	7
SA	4
VIC	15
WA	5
Total	62

Of the 62 sworn redundancies for the year to 24 November 2008, 60 were part of the voluntary redundancy exercise initiated in late June 2008.

(4) Sworn⁽⁴⁾ officers budgeted for by the AFP to 31 December 2009
Federal Government funded sworn recruitment.

By 30 June 2009	30
By 30 June 2010	30
Total	60

(4) Excludes state police seconded to the AFP

The commitment of 60 sworn officers is provided for in the *New Policy Initiative: Recruitment of additional 500 Federal Agents into investigative roles*.

(5) Anticipated further redundancies

The AFP has not planned for a further redundancy exercise as a direct result of the application of Government efficiency dividends. The AFP, like any other public agency, uses redundancies as part of its ongoing human resource management. Such processes free up resources and enables the AFP to recruit new people with skills and competencies that address the AFP's new and emerging business priorities.