

Labor Senators' additional comments

1.1 Labor Senators support the committee's recommendation that, should it be unable to complete its inquiry prior to the 2016 national election, the Senate refer this matter, in the same terms, to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs References committee in the 45th Parliament.

1.2 The Coalition Government has stubbornly refused to rule out whether it gave cash to criminal people smugglers to turn boats around at sea and this has frustrated the ability of the committee to undertake its appropriate scrutiny role and complete the inquiry.

1.3 The Australian community deserves to be told whether this government has used taxpayers' money to pay people smugglers to turn boats around at sea.

Senator Katy Gallagher
Senator for the Australian Capital Territory

