

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

**Question No. 30**

**Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2012:**

**Senator BRANDIS:** All right. As is pointed out on page 112 of the PBS, passenger facilitation also deals with 'pre-arrival and pre-departure risk assessment based on advance passenger data, information and intelligence to identify potential persons of interest'. It also regulates 'secondary interventions on arrival and pre-departure for the assessment of persons of interest', including questioning, baggage examination and searches, and 'related follow-on activities', including referral to agencies such as the AFP, and 'the collection of border-related revenue' as well. So, apart from the routine uninterrupted arrival of a passenger, at the sharp end of your border protection work at airports and ports there are also these activities where there is a person of interest identified and an intervention is required. Has the reduction of nearly \$45 million over two years of the passenger facilitation budget impinged on those activities?

**Mr Buckpitt:** The vast proportion of the reductions have been at the primary line. I would need to take on notice what proportion, if any, of it falls on secondary examinations. But it has not been our intention to impact the secondary examination or the risk-assessment work that you have referred to.

**Mr Carmody:** We will confirm this, but in both the specific initiatives that led to the reduction in staffing—that is, the reduction a year or so ago that acknowledged a reduction in facilitation rates of 95 to 92 and this latest reduction, which involves the use of SmartGate. Those specific reductions did not apply to what we call the 'back of the hall' activities.

**Senator BRANDIS:** Does that mean that there has been no reduction in 'back of the hall activities'?

**Mr Carmody:** For those initiatives, no.

**Senator BRANDIS:** What about overall?

**Mr Carmody:** We just need to check the exact figures, but what I can say is that, in relation to the specific reduction initiatives, they were excluded.

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

These reductions are not expected to have any impact on the secondary examination function.