

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

Question No. 27

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

Senator BRANDIS: How are the 211 [Border Protection Command staff] broken up between Darwin and Canberra?

Rear Adm. Johnston: I have got them broken up by Customs and then ADF staff. The Customs and Border Protection staff with me in Canberra total 112, and there are 12 ADF, so that is 124, and in the Darwin headquarters it is predominantly military, so 72 ADF and three Customs and Border Protection—so another 75.

Senator BRANDIS: So there are only three Customs and Border Protection staff in Darwin at the moment?

Rear Adm. Johnston: In my headquarters; of course there are others within the broader Customs and Border Protection Service.

Senator BRANDIS: You are the frontline, aren't you—Border Protection Command?

Rear Adm. Johnston: For on-water issues, yes.

Senator BRANDIS: Give me the equivalent figures, please, for each of the last three years.

Rear Adm. Johnston: I only have the current year figures—I do not have them for the previous three years. I would need to take that on notice.

Senator BRANDIS: Can they be fetched?

Mr Carmody: We will do the best we can to get those figures.

Senator BRANDIS: I want the equivalent figures for Border Protection Command—the breakup between Darwin and Canberra and the aggregate of the two for 2010, 2009 and 2008. We will come back to you, Admiral—I cannot imagine those figures would be too difficult to locate and communicate to the hearing. Over the last three years has the number of Border Protection Command personnel increased or decreased?

Rear Adm. Johnston: To my knowledge it has not moved significantly in any sense. I do not have the data available to me.

Senator BRANDIS: But you will get it?

Rear Adm. Johnston: Yes.

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

**Border Protection Command (BPC) Average Number of Full Time Employees for BPC
Canberra and Darwin**

BPC Darwin and Canberra			
Financial Year	Customs and Border Protection	Defence	TOTAL - Darwin and Canberra
2008-09	87	110	197
2009-10	88	110	198
2010-11	88	113	201
2011-12 YTD (March 2012)	88	110	198

**Border Protection Command (BPC) Average Number of Full Time Employees for BPC
Canberra**

BPC Canberra			
Financial Year	Customs and Border Protection	Defence	TOTAL - Canberra
2008-09	82	14	96
2009-10	84	14	98
2010-11	84	18	102
2011-12 YTD (March 2012)	84	22*	106

**Border Protection Command (BPC) Average Number of Full Time Employees for BPC
Darwin**

BPC Darwin			
Financial Year	Customs and Border Protection	Defence	TOTAL - Darwin
2008-09	5	96	101
2009-10	4	96	100
2010-11	4	95	99
2011-12 YTD (March 2012)	4	88*	92

NOTE: In addition to Canberra and Darwin staffing levels, BPC also has Customs and Border Protection officers in regional locations in Cairns, Thursday Island and Broome. Current FTE staffing levels in these locations for 2011-12 are: 4.7 FTE in Cairns, 2 FTE on Thursday Island, and 2.2 FTE in Broome.

NOTE: The above Defence officers may also contribute to other Defence related activities outside of BPC tasks. The above figures do not include operational personnel, for example Defence officers operating on Armidale Class Patrol Boats assigned to Operation RESOLUTE or Customs and Border Protection mariners and Marine Enforcement Officers assigned to the Maritime Operations Support Division.

* This figure is representative of the transfer and centralisation of intelligence functions into BPC headquarters in Canberra as outlined by RADM Johnston in the proof Hansard.