

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

**Question No. 41**

**Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2010:**

Please provide figures for the past three financial years of the amount in weight of illicit drugs detected on air passengers, in cargo and mail, including a breakdown of the type of illicit drugs. In doing so, please advise if there has been an increase or decrease over that period of any particular illicit drug, particularly over the last 12 months, and from which countries they are largely coming.

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

As detailed in the following information, annual weight detection results vary widely, being affected by large individual seizures.

Two recent examples illustrate this. The first was the announcement on 14 October 2010 of the seizure of 464 kg of cocaine and associated arrests in a joint Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Customs and Border Protection operation supported by the NSW and Queensland police. This single seizure exceeds the total weight of cocaine detections in 2009-10 by 20 per cent.

The second was the 1 November 2010 announcement of the seizure of 168 kg of heroin and arrest of three people in a joint AFP and Customs and Border Protection operation. This single seizure exceeds the annual weight of heroin detections in each of the last three years.

The breakdown by entry stream of the weight in kilograms of illicit drugs detected over the last three financial years, including a breakdown of the type of illicit drugs, is:

<b>2007-08</b>	<b>ATS</b>	<b>CANNABIS</b>	<b>COCAINE</b>	<b>HEROIN</b>	<b>MDMA</b>	<b>PRECURSOR</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
AIR CARGO	62.2	0.1	48.7	37.6	2.2	157.4	<b>308.2</b>
AIR PAX	3.2	1.7	36.2	30.2	0.2	7.2	<b>78.7</b>
POST	12.3	9.7	32.0	12.5	4.5	99.8	<b>170.8</b>
SEA CARGO	185.6	39.6	539.0	24.9	166.0	869.0	<b>1824.1</b>
SEA PAX	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	40.0	0.0	<b>40.7</b>
SMALLCRAFT	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>1.8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>263.3</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>655.9</b>	<b>105.1</b>	<b>212.9</b>	<b>1133.5</b>	<b>2424.2</b>

<b>2008-09</b>	<b>ATS</b>	<b>CANNABIS</b>	<b>COCAINE</b>	<b>HEROIN</b>	<b>MDMA</b>	<b>PRECURSOR</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
AIR CARGO	43.7	4.5	58.8	59.9	0.9	181.9	<b>349.8</b>
AIR PAX	11.6	0.7	21.2	48.9	6.8	5.4	<b>94.7</b>
POST	10.6	1.6	21.3	31.9	4.1	76.5	<b>146.1</b>
SEA CARGO	280.0	0.0	402.0	0.0	0.0	4095.5	<b>4777.5</b>
SEA PAX	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	6.0	<b>8.0</b>
SMALLCRAFT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>345.9</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>505.3</b>	<b>140.8</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>4365.4</b>	<b>5376.1*</b>

\*excludes 1.765kg (1.75kg cannabis and 0.050kg cocaine) in two detections made post-border based on Customs information for which means of entry is unknown

<b>2009-10</b>	<b>ATS</b>	<b>CANNABIS</b>	<b>COCAINE</b>	<b>HEROIN</b>	<b>MDMA</b>	<b>PRECURSOR</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
AIR CARGO	30.4	7.1	63.5	47.7	2.1	134.6	<b>285.3</b>
AIR PAX	12.5	1.8	36.2	35.9	1.1	24.7	<b>112.3</b>
POST	23.7	9.8	47.1	33.9	3.3	482.2	<b>599.9</b>
SEA CARGO	0.0	0.0	240.0	0.0	0.0	14.9	<b>254.9</b>
SEA PAX	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>0.1</b>
SMALLCRAFT	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>386.8</b>	<b>117.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>661.4</b>	<b>1258.5</b>

An increase or decrease over that period of any particular illicit drug, particularly over the last 12 months, is as follows:

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Number of detections</b>			<b>Weight of drugs detected in kg</b>		
	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008- 2009</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,804</b>	<b>2,496</b>	<b>3,410</b>	<b>2,424.2</b>	<b>5,378.0†</b>	<b>1,258.5</b>

†includes 1.765kg weight of two detections (1.75kg cannabis and 0.050kg cocaine) made post- border based on Customs information

The countries of embarkation for illicit drugs detected at the Australian border in 2009-10 were as follows:

**For detected ATS importations over 500g:** Canada, China, Hong Kong, Netherlands, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, USA, Vietnam and Zimbabwe .

**For detected MDMA importations over 100g:** Canada, China, Ireland, Taiwan and USA.

**For detected cannabis importations over 100g:** Belgium, Canada, France, Iran, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, United Kingdom and USA.

**For detected cocaine importations over 1kg:** Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, USA and Venezuela.

**For detected heroin importations over 1kg:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Canada, Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam.