

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

Question No. 33

Senator Abetz asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2011:

Senator ABETZ: Was the director—and I do not want names—of National Pay and Accounts responsible for the overseeing of this task?

Mr Carmody: No, they were involved in a lot of the testing and specifications, but they were not responsible for the overall project.

Senator ABETZ: Which person—not by name designation but by position—was responsible for the overall delivery of these two projects?

Mr Carmody: That changed over time, but in the latter part we assigned an individual SES officer. Her exclusive role was to bring the project to fruition.

Senator ABETZ: And it has not come to fruition?

Mr Carmody: Yes, it has. It is operating now. We have been paying through that system since the first pay in this financial year.

Senator ABETZ: So it has now come to fruition, but with a write-off of considerable millions of dollars. Has that person received a bonus payment?

Mr Carmody: I do not know, but the person who delivered that took over a project—as is evident from the impairments or write-offs—that was not delivering to the standard we expected, so I am not doing her performance assessment now. But that person actually brought the project on track.

Senator ABETZ: Was that person paid a bonus?

Mr Carmody: I do not know.

Senator ABETZ: You can take that on notice. You can give us a date on notice as to when responsibility shifted from one designated officer to another, keeping in mind I do not want to know names.

Mr Carmody: I understand.

Senator ABETZ: And whether the predecessor person—if I can describe it as such—who was responsible for implementing this was paid a bonus in the previous years.

Mr Carmody: We will take that on notice.

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

Responsibility for the HRIS/Roster Project (the predecessor project) was allocated to a Customs and Border Protection officer until November 2008, at which time work was halted and an independent review was initiated. On 14 September 2009 the Customs and Border Protection Service Executive approved the new project – COMPASS (Customs Managing People and Self Service) - and responsibility for this new project was allocated to another officer on 5 October 2009. The predecessor officer was not paid any bonus. The officer who was allocated responsibility for the COMPASS project, did receive a bonus.