

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

Question No. 48

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

1. Does Customs and Border Protection Service keep incoming passenger cards that passengers fill out upon entering Australia?
2. If so, how long do they keep them for and who can they be accessed by?

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

1. Completed incoming passenger cards are sorted by flight or voyage number and handed to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship at the completion of processing passengers on each flight or sea voyage. The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service does not store passenger cards for any international movements.

Passengers travelling to or from the external territories of Australia are required to complete a passenger card for customs purposes only. The storage of these completed passenger cards is the responsibility of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service.

2. Storage of passenger cards for external territories flights is in accordance with the *Australian Government Protective Security Policy Framework*, the *Archives Act 1983* and the *Privacy Act 1988*. Passenger cards are kept for seven years and are then destroyed.