

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE15/047) - Asbestos in vehicles from China - Programme 1.1 Border Management (ACBPS)

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 79) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: I appreciate the point you make. You cannot inspect two million containers, but you know that there are specific uses for a product. You know who is importing the material, you know who is exporting the material from China.

Mr Quaedvlieg: Yes.

Senator KIM CARR: Why can you not give us an assurance that those suppliers would be prevented from importing asbestos to Australia?

Mr Quaedvlieg: It is highly unlikely that we do. I just do not want to give you that guarantee here without the actual statistics.

Senator KIM CARR: Can you take that on notice because I look forward to your assurance that that can be done. I am surprised you will not be able to do that after you have checked the records.

Mr Quaedvlieg: Yes, we will take that on notice.

Answer:

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) applies an intelligence-led, risk-based approach to address the unlawful importation of goods containing asbestos. Products that might contain asbestos and importers who have attempted to import products containing asbestos in the past represent a higher risk and are treated accordingly. It is an offence to import goods containing asbestos without a permit, they may be seized as prohibited imports and the importer prosecuted.

ACBPS cannot guarantee that all imported goods will be free of asbestos but this approach reduces the likelihood of that occurring.