

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE15/049) - Asbestos - Programme 1.1 Border Management (ACBPS)

Senator Xenophon, Nick (L&CA 87) asked:

Senator XENOPHON: I will not ask you to comment on policy. That is something I can perhaps put to the government down the track but finally in respect to this, on notice can you tell us the likely quantity of material that is coming in, both in terms of cars and auto products and in terms of building products, and what measures or resources are being used to ensure that this stuff does not get into the country at all?

Mr Quaadvlieg: That is a very broad-ranging question. I will do my utmost to provide you with a full and detailed answer to that question.

Senator XENOPHON: Including spot checks, for instance. Do you have spot checks?

Mr Quaadvlieg: We do. We have an audit and compliance program that does that sort of checking. We will make every endeavour to give you a full and comprehensive answer to that.

Answer:

It is not possible to provide exact numbers on the amount of cars, auto parts and building materials being imported to Australia that are at risk of containing asbestos. In order to prevent materials containing asbestos being imported, the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service use a range of mechanisms as part of the audit and compliance program. These include advice and guidance to importers and brokers, pre-clearance checks, investigations, seizures of goods, infringement notices and prosecutions. Details of information available is at:
www.customs.gov.au/businesses/Importing-goods