

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 27 February 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE17/043) - Number of attempted border crossings - Programme 1.1: Border Enforcement

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA 76) asked:

Senator PRATT: How many attempted border crossings have been intercepted or interrupted between PNG and Australia in the last 12 months? Do you have any records with you?

Mr Quaedvlieg: We may have someone present that has the statistics. In general terms, we identify less than 10 attempted crossings between the southern coast of Papua New Guinea and the Torres Strait Islands and/or the northern tip of Cape York on an annual basis. Certainly, the last 12 months have not seen any abnormal spike in those numbers. I do not have the exact numbers to hand, but it would be less than 10.

Senator PRATT: Could you please take on notice for me whether that date of the middle of this year was the original date?

Mr Quaedvlieg: I am very happy to do that.

Senator PRATT: I am keen to have that clarified, because the news certainly said that they were not on schedule. It would be great if you could check that.

Mr Quaedvlieg: I shall try to source the archive material from that footage, and I will also look at the project schedule and come back to you with some advice.

Senator PRATT: You said there were officers who could advise about those interceptions?

Mr Quaedvlieg: Potentially. I will check in the next little while whether we have those on hand. If I can come back to you before the end of the day, I will.

Answer:

Since January 2016, there have been four intercepted or interrupted attempts to cross the border between PNG and Australia involving seven individuals.