

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/016) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

Senator Singh (L&CA 80) asked:

Senator SINGH: I wanted to ask some questions in relation to Australia's asbestos ban. How many prosecutions have taken place since the ban on the importation of asbestos was introduced some 10 years ago now?

Mr Pezzullo: Unless one of the deputies can assist me, I just do not know off the top of my head.

Senator SINGH: You may have to take that on notice, and I understand that; that is fine.

Answer:

There have been two successful prosecutions for importing asbestos:

- In 2008, Alcan pleaded guilty to seven charges for importing equipment containing asbestos in breach of section 233(1)(b) of the *Customs Act*. The Court fined Alcan \$70 000 and awarded ACBPS with \$20 000 in costs.
- In 2012, the court found an international engineering company, Clyde Bergemann Senior Thermal Pty Ltd (CBST) guilty of two counts of importing prohibited imports, namely chrysotile asbestos contrary to section 233(1)(b) of the *Customs Act*. The Court fined CBST \$64 000 including costs.