

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/193) PROGRAMME – Operation Sovereign Borders

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

There is a small increase of \$3.7 million in 2014-15 for international engagement activities to prevent and disrupt maritime people smuggling in the 2014-15 Budget. Please outline the scope of these activities and what the Budget allocation is expected to cover.

- a. Will this continue across the forward estimates?
- b. Which countries do these activities focus on?
- c. Who determines what activities are included in this allocation?
- d. Have any consultancies or reviews and reports been done on the effectiveness of this program?
- e. Does this funding include the advertisement run by Commander Angus Campbell, around the 11th April 2014?
- f. Will the Government be encouraging future advertisements from Australian military personnel?

Answer:

This budget allocation is for continued international engagement activities to prevent and disrupt maritime people smuggling. It supports the posting of Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) liaison officers overseas to coordinate Commonwealth agency efforts to sustain the prevention of maritime people smuggling.

- a. The allocation in the 2014-15 Budget is for one year only.
- b. The funding is for the continuation of deterrence and counter people smuggling activities in source and transit countries.
- c. The Government determines the types of activities included in the allocation based on the advice from the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS), in consultation with other relevant agencies.
- d. Yes.
- e. No. Funding for the advertisement featuring the Commander of Operation Sovereign Borders was drawn from the 2013-14 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) measure *Operation Sovereign Borders – community engagement and strategic communications campaigns*.
- f. The Commander of Operation Sovereign Borders will continue to deliver anti-people smuggling communication messaging on behalf of the Australian Government for as long as he remains in that role.