

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/195) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

What is the current budget for Project TRICORD and Operation POLO?

What is the budget of Project TRICORD and Operation POLO over the forward estimates?

How many staff are engaged in Project TRICORD and Operation POLO?

What is the current breakdown of staff for Project TRICORD and Operation POLO?

What is the projected breakdown of staff for Project TRICORD and Operation POLO over the forward estimates?

Answer:

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) contributions to Project TRICORD/Operation POLO are funded from within the existing budget allocation for enforcement operations.

There is no budget allocated against Project TRICORD/Operation POLO over the forward estimates as it will continue to be funded from within existing budget allocations for enforcement operations.

The ACBPS contribution to Project TRICORD/Operation POLO varied over the different phases of the operation. Three officers were engaged in planning and analytical roles throughout the course of the operation, though these were not allocated full-time to the operation. A further 25 ACBPS officers were deployed on the major day-of-action on the 3rd of May. Smaller numbers of ACBPS staff were provided to support subsequent warrant action in the week following the day of action as required.

There are currently no ACBPS staff allocated full-time to Project TRICORD/Operation POLO. ACBPS provides ad-hoc analytical support as required, as well as an officer to participate in a working group looking at future activity related to this operation.

As ACBPS' contribution to Project TRICORD/Operation POLO is from within existing budget allocations, there is no projected staff breakdown over the forward estimates for this operation.