

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/244) PROGRAMME – Operation Sovereign Borders

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Are there Australian owned vessels that have the capacity to hold people on board for a period of time?

If so, how long are they kept?

So, they are effectively held in Australian custody, is that correct?

So, we have a prison ship operating as part of OSB?

Answer:

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) and Australian Defence Force (ADF) vessels are required to undertake a range of activities, and in support of Border Protection Command are required to be able to hold non-ACBPS and non-ADF personnel for periods of time. These periods depend on the circumstances in which they were on board, which may range from safety reasons to those relating to maritime enforcement activities consistent with domestic and international legal obligations.