

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/366) PROGRAMME – Operation Sovereign Borders

Senator Conroy (Written) asked:

A key issue in ensuring the safety of an undertaking or a workplace is to know who is in charge. Who is in charge of the “workplace” of the Australian personnel serving on each vessel that is part of OSB?

a. Who is in charge of the “undertaking” that is the collection of all the vessels that are on-water as part of Operation Sovereign Borders?

Answer:

A workplace, in the context of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* is any place where work is carried out and includes vessels. Australian Defence Force and Australian Customs and Border Protection Service vessels are commanded by Commanding Officers and Enforcement Commanders.

- a. For the purposes of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, officers are agency heads or senior executives who make, or participate in making, decisions that affect the whole, or substantial part, of the business or undertaking. The Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and the Chief of the Australian Defence Force are agency heads for their respective agencies.