

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014**

**IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

**(BE14/368) PROGRAMME – Operation Sovereign Borders**

Senator Conroy (Written) asked:

I'd also like to follow up my question on notice number 365, where I asked about personal defence equipment and was provided with a very high level summary, to be polite.

a. How often has pepper spray, or similar types of equipment, been used by Australian personnel as part of Operation Sovereign Borders?

*Answer:*

Details on incidents of use of specific operational equipment relates to tactics, techniques and procedures, which are protected to preserve their effectiveness during operations.

This is a matter of the safety of Australian personnel as well as the crew and passengers on any vessels boarded.