

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/125) - Illicit Drugs and pre-cursor - Chemicals - Programme 1.1: Border Enforcement

Senator Xenophon, Nick (L&CA) written:

What is Border Force's responsibility in relation to interdiction of illicit drugs and pre-cursor chemicals coming into Australia? What contexts do these interdictions take place, eg at ports, airports and/or on the open seas?
What other Federal and State agencies does Border Force operate and liaise?

Answer:

The Immigration and Border Protection Portfolio (the Portfolio) is responsible for detecting illicit drugs and precursor chemicals at the border and preventing their import into Australia and export from Australia.

The Portfolio's role with respect to illicit drugs and precursor chemicals is performed at airports, seaports, on sea and in mail centres. The Portfolio also liaises with other government agencies to identify and intercept those responsible for such attempted imports. The portfolio also has a number of officers posted in overseas countries to assist with the interdiction of illicit drugs and precursor chemicals. Those agencies are:

- Australian Federal Police
- various State and Territory police forces
- Australian Crime Commission
- NSW Crime Commission
- Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre
- Attorney-General's Department
- Australian Institute of Criminology, and
- international law enforcement partners.