

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 22 May 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE17/040) - Turn-backs - Information collected about individuals - Programme 1.1: Border Enforcement

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA 102) asked:

Senator PRATT: What categories of information do you collect about turn-backs?

Mr Pezzullo: Categories?

Senator PRATT: Location would be one of them; the number of people on board; the number of children; the gender and age of people.

Mr Pezzullo: All relevant operational information is collected either by the Australian Border Force or by the Royal Australian Navy vessel, depending on which asset has conducted the interception, and all of those matters are reported in the tactical reporting.

Senator PRATT: I am not asking for the information; I am asking for the nature of the information that you collect.

Mr Pezzullo: I will see if the Air Vice-Marshal wishes to particularise the categories of tactical information. Certainly, the interception point would be known, because the operation has been controlled by our chain of command, so we know the interception occurs. But, in terms of numbers of persons, a breakdown of passengers versus crew, ages, gender and the like, I am sure that the Air Vice-Marshal can assist to some degree.

Senator PRATT: What about the type of boat and whether it has been turned back more than once?

Mr Pezzullo: I do not know about the latter. But, certainly, the nature of the vessel, its condition, its construction, its propulsion—any range of matters of that ilk—Air Vice-Marshal, I think it is fair to say we would capture that, would we not?

Air Vice Marshal Osborne: Yes, Secretary. Senator, all the sorts of information that the secretary just mentioned are—

Senator PRATT: Could you take that on notice so that we can get a list. There may be some parts of that that you are unable to give us for security reasons, but the general character of that information I would be interested in.

Mr Pezzullo: We will take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department collects a range of information about the interception of people smuggling ventures. This information includes geographical information such as the point of interception, information relating to the passengers and crew such as their age and genders, vessel information such as the vessel type, its owner (if known) and the seaworthiness of the vessel, and any other operationally relevant information.