

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

#### **(SE14/113) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service**

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

What procedures has ACBPS put in place when dealing with arrivals to Australia suspected of suffering from the Ebola virus?

*Answer:*

Carriers are required under the Quarantine Act 1908 to report all instances of illness on board to the Department of Agriculture (Agriculture) prior to arrival.

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) also profiles to identify, ahead of the border, travellers with an itinerary which includes an Ebola affected country. This provides advanced notification of travellers arriving from those countries and supports early intervention if required.

This information is shared with the Agriculture who have responsibility for managing risks at the border on behalf of the Department of Health, and for triaging and responding to reports of ill travellers on board vessels en route to Australia.

For all reported illnesses and symptoms, Agriculture, in consultation with health experts as required, intervenes at the border to ensure that any identified risk can be contained and managed. This could include immediate transfer to an appropriate medical facility, and the deployment of additional personal protective equipment.

Travellers who present with Ebola symptoms will be admitted, assessed and treated at designated hospitals. Travellers without symptoms, but who are within the 21 day incubation period, are actively managed by State public health authorities.

This process is supported by the introduction of the Travel History Card on 14 November 2014, which requires arriving travellers to identify whether they have visited an Ebola-risk country within the previous 21 days. ACBPS officers refer all travellers who have answered yes to this question to Agriculture for secondary health screening and assessment at the border, irrespective of whether they are ill or not. Health screening now also includes temperature checking.