

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### (SE14/416) PROGRAMME – 2.3 and 2.4: Regional Cooperation

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Can you please provide an update on the Bali Process?

What progress has been made on the Bali Process since the election in September 2013?

What ministerial level engagement has there been with the Bali Process since the election in September 2013?

Are there any initiatives underway through ASEAN to progress the work of the Bali Process and regional cooperation on people-smuggling/displaced persons?

*Answer:*

Since the September 2013 election, considerable progress has been made under a range of bilateral and multilateral forums associated with the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (the Bali Process). At the eighth Ad Hoc Group Senior Officials Meeting (AHG SOM) on 6 August 2014, members endorsed a Bali Process Strategy and forward programme, focussed on practical cooperation to strengthen immigration management, refugee protection, border integrity and related legal capacity building and law enforcement measures. The meeting also endorsed new policy guides to assist policy makers and practitioners strengthen legislative frameworks to criminalise migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. A new *Trafficking in Persons* Working Group, co-chaired by Australia and Indonesia has been established in addition to a new *Disruption of Criminal Networks Engaged in Trafficking in Persons and People Smuggling* Working Group, co-chaired by New Zealand and Sri Lanka. Further information on the AHG SOM outcomes is available at <http://www.baliprocess.net/ministerial-conferences-and-senior-officials-meetings>

Practical regional activities have continued, including workshops on airport security and identity verification. Complementing this work, the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process has initiated a number of projects, including the development of a standardised regional training curriculum for frontline border officers, a regional biometric data sharing initiative and a roundtable meeting on migration and transnational crime.

Australian and Indonesian Ministers regularly engage on Bali Process issues, to ensure continued momentum on outcomes from ministerial conferences, and recognising the importance of regional collaboration to address people smuggling, human trafficking and related transnational crime.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection engages with ASEAN on people smuggling and border management issues through the annual ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) + Australia Consultation.

Our engagement with ASEAN complements the work of the Bali Process. The activities in the 2014-15 ASEAN Australia Programme of Work aim to support ASEAN members to identify shared challenges for facilitating genuine travellers, while preventing people smuggling and other transnational crime.

The 2014-15 activities under the ASEAN Australia Programme include a series of three workshops (co-hosted by ASEAN members):

- ‘Building secure foundations for regional frameworks’
- ‘Supporting frameworks through practical agreements’
- ‘Regional approaches to risk mitigation’

As part of the Programme’s work, the department participates in the Singapore hosted Immigration and Checkpoints Authority ‘Competencies Training Programme’. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection engages multilaterally with ASEAN on people smuggling and border management issues through the annual ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) + Australia Consultation. The 10<sup>th</sup> DGICM + Australia Consultation was hosted by Brunei Darussalam on 3 September 2014.

Our engagement with ASEAN complements the work of the Bali Process. The activities in the 2014-15 ASEAN-Australia Programme of Work will focus on supporting ASEAN member states to achieve their 2015 Economic Community Goal. They aim to develop a common understanding of the elements in the ASEAN Regional Visa Framework, and the shared challenges for facilitating genuine travellers while preventing people smuggling and other transnational crime.