

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(SE16/075) - OSB JATF - Assisted returns - Operation Sovereign Borders**

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA) written:

Sometimes officials refer to 'assisted returns' of boats. Can you confirm whether these assisted returns are included in the government's overall calculation of the number of interceptions, or are they considered separate? Minister Dutton stated in a speech on 15 Sept 2016 that there had been 29 vessels (740 people) intercepted since the commencement of OSB.

*Answer:*

Assisted returns are included in the Government's overall calculation of the number of people smuggling ventures.