

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

**Question No. 111**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 17 February 2006:**

- a) Please provide an update of Question Number 129 from 26-27 May 2004.
- b) What was the outcome of the discussions about this matter at the CNCC in September 2004?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

- a) and b) In the event, there was no meeting of the Customs National Consultative Committee (CNCC) held in September 2004. At CNCC meeting 43 in March 2004, Customs had presented a paper outlining background, eligibility and timing for disbursement of the Cargo Automation Development Fund (CADF), based on recommendations made by an Expert Working Group comprising nominees from CNCC representatives. The CNCC paper indicated the CADF would be disbursed to offset the cost of digital certificates required for authentication of clients reporting their import declarations into the Integrated Cargo System.

At CNCC meeting 46 in March 2005, Customs' National Director (Cargo and Trade Division) advised CNCC that while there was a case involving CADF in the Federal Court, it was doubtful that such an arrangement could be implemented.

As at 10 March 2006, the Federal Court action is continuing.