

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

Question No. 17

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2011:

Senator BARNETT: The *Sydney Morning Herald* in an article on 4 May states that 21 IMAs had received adverse security assessments. I do not know whether you are aware of that, but the question is: where are they now?

Mr Irvine: I cannot answer that question.

Senator BARNETT: Are you able to take that on notice?

Mr Irvine: I think that is a question that should be put to DIAC. That is a question that is actually in their bailiwick. We will have to go to DIAC.

Senator BARNETT: Yes, you would.

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

As at 9 June 2011, ASIO has issued 39 Adverse Security Assessments in relation to IMAs.

ASIO and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) have a longstanding arrangement for the referral of visa applicants, including IMAs, to ASIO for security assessment. As the Director-General advised during Budget Estimates, ASIO does not hold information regarding the location of IMAs subsequent to the issuing of Security Assessments. Persons who receive an adverse Security Assessment are not eligible for Australian visas. Their detention is managed by DIAC in accordance with Australian Government policy. Questions regarding the current location and IMA detention arrangements more broadly are best directed to DIAC.