

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

Question No. 68

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May:

Is \$6 million for 30 contract notes normal in terms of outsourcing for temporary personnel services?

I would like you to do an analysis of the last couple of years and tell me whether \$6 million is normal in terms of contracting out for those types of services over those last few years?

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

Customs and Border Protection is unable to identify the 30 contracts referred to by Senator Barnett but can provide the following information for current live Customs and Border Protection contracts with the category of "temporary personnel services" that are listed on AusTender as at 26 May 2011:

Total Current Contracts: 192
Total Contracts Value: \$119,539,026.57

It is important to note that the \$119.5 million in contracts relates to "live" contracts and these contracts could relate to multiple years of expenditure. Of the 192 "temporary personnel service" contracts currently in place, the major types of services being purchased and their respective values are as follows:

Description of Major Services	Values \$m
ICT Panel Services	\$61.3
Container Handling Services*	\$46.2
Business and Consultancy Panel Services	\$4.4
Property Related Services	\$1.2
Marine Services	\$2.0
Medical Services	\$2.0
Survey services	\$1.1

In relation to whether \$6m per annum is normal in terms of contracting out for "temporary personnel services", the following Table provides a comparison of the number and value of contracts executed (published) in 2008-09, 2009-10 and year to date 2010-11. Contracts are published only once, in the year in which they are executed, even though there may be multiple financial years of expenditure within these published amounts.

Financial Year	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11 to 9 June 2011
No. of Contracts	160	273	158
Value of Contracts	\$97,092,308.43*	\$72,819,664.99	27,088,928.96

* This total includes a contract valued at \$46.2 million for Container Handling Services. Container Handling Services include the lifting, delivery and return of shipping containers targeted for inspection at the Customs and Border Protection Container Examination Facilities.