

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 180

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2005:

- a) It is correct that Customs will be referring incoming visitors to DIMIA for the collection of biometric identifiers?
- b) What criteria that Customs will be using to identify visitors that it wants to refer to DIMIA?

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

- a) Customs does not refer visitors to DIMIA for the collection of biometric identifiers. There is currently a biometrics collection trial at Sydney airport for visitors that have been referred to DIMIA by Customs based on current procedures. The collection of biometric identifiers from visitors is undertaken by DIMIA on a voluntary basis.
- b) There are no additional referrals of visitors to DIMIA for the biometrics collection trial. The trial results and long term ongoing interagency discussions will determine future directions for processes on arrival including possible biometric collection.