

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 220

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

- a) Will the Commonwealth share the costs with the States/Territory to improve coastal surveillance and intelligence networks by Indigenous communities along the northern Australian coast and to improve coverage on breaches associated with quarantine, migration, disease, Customs and other incidents?

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

- a) Customs notes that this is a matter of Government policy. Customs currently facilitates a Community Participation Program (CCP) established in 2002 to develop and deliver specialised sessions to indigenous communities along the Northern Australian coast aimed at teaching them the type of activities and information Customs is interested in. There are approximately nine Sea Ranger groups operating in the Northern Territory. The CPP has provided, and continues to provide, training to a majority of these ranger programs.