

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

Question No. 76

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 19 October 2009:

It was reported in *The Australian IT* 04/08/09 that counterfeit iPhones were entering the Australian market from China. Sellers of the phones had reported they were purchased from employees of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service.

- a) Is this correct, and if so what are the facts and what is your response,
- b) Has Customs made any progress on stopping the importation of fake iPhones,
- c) Have any customs employees been found to be complicit or involved in any way in the importation of fake iPhones, and
- d) Have Customs employees been investigated or charged with respect to any criminal offence and if so advise how many and the circumstances in each case?

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

a) and b) The Australian Customs and Border Protection is working with Apple to determine the veracity of the allegation.

c) At this time, no Customs and Border Protection officer has found to be involved in the importation of fake iPhones.

d) No Customs and Border Protection officer has been charged with respect to a criminal offence in the importation of iPhones.