

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

Question No. 37

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2011:

Senator BRANDIS: So it is the person who is in charge on the shift at that particular time who makes the call to send an urgent message to AMSA?

Ms Grant: The officer in that area needs to be notified. If the information comes in through, say, our intelligence side of the business, our intel part of the business will inform the operations floor so they can immediately pass that information to AMSA.

Senator BRANDIS: I understand that. I am just trying to get the sequence right. There must be a person whose task it is in circumstances like these to make a call—in other words, to conclude that there is a sufficiently serious or grave situation that AMSA should be contacted. Who was that person on this particular occasion?

Ms Grant: I would have to take the name on notice to get exactly the position—

Senator BRANDIS: That is fine; you do that, Ms Grant.

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

In accordance with standard operating procedures any Border Protection Command staff member working in the Australian Maritime Security Operations Centre (AMSOC) will advise the ASMSA Rescue Coordination Centre as soon as possible in the event of a search and rescue incident. Usually, this function will be exercised by the AMSOC Shift Supervisor.