

Question on notice no. 108

Portfolio question number: AE18/113

2017-18 Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Nick McKim: asked the Australian Border Force on 26 February 2018—

Following the last Senate Estimates, the Department provided a response to Question on Notice SE17/204. This contains a table referring to vessels turned back by ABF. The table states that vessel 13 was an Assisted Return in September 2014. However, the OSB Monthly Update for September 2014 does not mention any assisted return, nor do subsequent OSB monthly updates mention this.

- a. Why was this omitted?
- b. What country were passengers returned to?
- c. Were any processes undertaken to identify whether people on board were in need of international protection?

Answer —

The regular inclusion of returns into the Monthly Update commenced in April 2015. The specific information relating to vessel 13 was first released in May 2017 as part of Budget Estimates. It is not appropriate to amend historical monthly reports as they are a record of what was released at the time.

This assisted return was to Indonesia. All individuals were assessed on whether they engaged Australia's protection obligations prior to their return.