

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE15/094) - Legislation and Penalties - Asbestos in Vehicles - Programme 1.2
Border Enforcement (ACBPS)**

Senator Xenophon, Nick (L&CA) written:

What efforts do Customs take to make importers in China aware of the legislation and penalties surrounding the importation of products containing asbestos?

- a. How much funding is currently allocated to education, campaigns and outreach activities?
- b. Can you provide detailed information about these programs?
- c. How does the Department monitor whether key outcomes are being met by these activities?

Answer:

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) undertakes a wide variety of activities to make importers, exporters and others across the globe aware of issues such as asbestos.

- a. Funds are not generally allocated to specific education, campaigns and outreach activities for a particular risk, rather they are incorporated into the overall programme activity costs.
- b. Asbestos information material is available on the ACBPS website, through industry newsletters, industry summits, and extensive liaison nationally and internationally.

Additionally, the ACBPS works with companies in high risk sectors to ensure that goods are checked for asbestos before being imported to Australia. For major shipments of materials that could contain asbestos, the ACBPS requires companies to have independent inspections undertaken by industrial hygienists in the country of origin. These reports are checked by the ACBPS before importation of the goods.

- c. The ACBPS has a comprehensive performance monitoring and reporting regime which informs the portfolio's judgements on how well it is performing against its key performance indicators.