

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 08 February 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE16/026) - MV Portland - Crew taken off the vessel - Programme 1.1: Border Enforcement

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 58) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: I am interested to know what procedures were put in place for the crew that were taken off the vessel.

Mr Quaedvlieg: Understood, Senator. I am scanning this document as I respond to your questions, and that is not contained in this advice. Can I further take that on notice and seek to get back to you prior to the end of this?

Senator KIM CARR: Right. That was the point of the question. Those people, I am told, are concerned about what their status is—not having been officially recognised as re-entering the country.

Mr Quaedvlieg: I understand. You are interested in the inbound clearance.

Senator KIM CARR: And whether or not they have actually been cleared by an authorised Customs officer to re-enter Australia.

Mr Quaedvlieg: I understand. I will take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: Of the crew that departed, what dates were their visas issued?

Mr Quaedvlieg: I do not have that information before me. I will take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: You may not want to name individuals, but I would like to know the dates on which their visas were processed. Were they processed individually and on a particular day, or were they processed at different dates?

Mr Quaedvlieg: When you say processed do you mean the date of issue?

Senator KIM CARR: Yes.

Mr Quaedvlieg: I will get the department to track that answer down for you.

Senator KIM CARR: Where were they issued, and was there a senior officer involved in the processing of those visas?

Mr Quaedvlieg: We will take all those subsets on notice.

Answer:

The Australian crew who disembarked *MV Portland* prior to the vessel's departure from Australia did not undertake an international journey, therefore did not require clearance processing.

One crew member was granted a visa on 09/04/2014.

A second crew member was granted a visa on 19/05/2014.

A third crew member was granted a visa on 20/05/2014.

A fourth crew member was granted a visa on 01/12/2015.

A fifth crew member was granted a visa on 03/12/2015.

The sixth member was granted a visa on 11/01/2016.

The visas were decided and granted individually and on different dates.

The visas were processed in Australia by the Maritime Global Processing Centre in Brisbane, Queensland. There were no senior officers involved in the processing of those visas.