

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/018) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

Senator Singh (L&CA 80) asked:

Senator SINGH: Also, you might want to take on notice how the Australian legislative framework ranks compared with our international standards in relation to that as well.

Mr Pezzullo: Sorry, Senator—in relation to the border management of asbestos?

Senator SINGH: Yes.

Answer:

Asbestos is banned, whole or in part, in approximately 60 countries worldwide. In 2012, the Australian Government commissioned the Asbestos Management Review Report which found that “while a number of countries have banned the mining, processing and export of all forms of asbestos, others have not done so”, for example, certain countries accept a minor tolerance level of asbestos contained within goods. The report recommended “that the Australian Government continue to play a leadership role in a global campaign aimed at securing a total worldwide ban in the production and trade of asbestos and asbestos-containing products”.

For further information as to the comparison of Australia’s framework relative to other countries, the Department of Employment is the responsible Government Agency.