

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/045) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

Senator Conroy (L&CA 117) asked:

Senator CONROY: Are there any health and safety risks which you had not originally envisaged but that are now being managed?

...

Senator CONROY: Or have there been any reported near misses since September last year?

Mr Pezzullo: Sorry, Senator: near misses?

Senator CONROY: I am assuming we are talking about boats here—not that we have any boats doing anything out there!

Mr Pezzullo: Near miss in terms of an injury?

Senator CONROY: Injuries to personnel or near misses in terms of boats.

Mr Pezzullo: Because it comprehends both the ADF and my personnel, I will take the detail on notice. I am not aware of any significant injuries, but there might well have been reported sprains or various muscular injuries et cetera. I would need to get the detail.

Answer:

There are no maritime health and safety risks which were not initially envisaged but which are now being managed.

A number of injuries and near misses occurred on Australian Customs and Border Protection Vessels between September 2014 and May 2014. This is to be expected; the maritime environment is inherently risky. However, the rate of injury/near miss in that period was less than that of the equivalent period immediately before September 2014, due to the declining operational tempo.

Please note the term ‘near miss’ has been interpreted as referring to an incident that exposed a worker or any other person to a serious risk to that person’s health or safety, but did not result in an injury.