

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/414) PROGRAMME – 2.3 and 2.4: Regional Cooperation

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

What is the current state of the relationship between Indonesia and Australia?
What impact has the Government's Operation Sovereign Borders had on Australia's relationship with Indonesia?
Specifically, what programs have been cancelled or suspended as a result of OSB?
When was the last trip to Indonesia by an Australian official?

Answer:

Australia shares a strong and comprehensive strategic partnership with Indonesia. The relationship spans over 60 areas of bilateral and multilateral activity, across political, security, economic and development issues. While the Indonesian Government expressed concerns publicly about some aspects of Australian border protection policies, no programmes run by either the DIBP or the ACBPS in Indonesia were cancelled or suspended as a result of Operation Sovereign Borders. The portfolio continues to work with Indonesia to combat people smuggling, including to reduce the number of asylum seekers in Indonesia, and remains in close contact with Indonesia on these issues. Travel by Australian and Indonesian officials takes place regularly at a range of levels in both directions. Both DIBP and ACBPS have officers posted in Jakarta.