

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 3

Output Group: 3.2 – Assistance for science collaboration and innovation

DEST Question No. E474_06

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

Question:

How often are permits issued to import radioactive substances?

Answer:

Permits issued to import radioactive substances

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) has provided the following response:

The importation of radioactive material into Australia requires permission under regulation 4R of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956.

In accordance with the authorisation by the Minister for Health and Ageing, in 2004-05 ARPANSA issued:

- 400 permits for customs release of nonmedical radioisotopes, comprising 208 single-shipment, 177 urgent requests, and 15 twelve-monthly permits
- 433 permits for customs release of medical radioisotopes, comprising 387 single-shipment permits, 34 twelve-monthly permits and 12 urgent (faxed) permits.

ARPANSA did not receive any request for a permit to import radioactive waste into Australia during 2004-05.