SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

Question No. 40

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 8 February 2010:

- a) For the 2008-09 financial year:
 - 1. What was the total number of assessments that ASIO conducted/was referred?
 - 2. How many of the total assessments were for irregular maritime arrivals?
 - 3. What was the total number of adverse assessments issued?
 - 4. How many of the total number of adverse assessments issued were for irregular maritime arrivals?
- b) From 1 July to 31 December 2009:
 - 1. What was the total number of assessments that ASIO conducted/was referred?
 - 2. How many of the total assessments were for irregular maritime arrivals?
 - 3. What was the total number of adverse assessments issued?
 - 4. How many of the total number of adverse assessments issued were for irregular maritime arrivals?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) 1. In the 2008-09 financial year, ASIO completed a total of 59,884 security assessments for visa applicants and irregular maritime arrivals.
 - 2. Of the total assessments in 2008-09, 207 assessments related to irregular maritime arrivals.
 - 3. In 2008-09, ASIO issued two (2) adverse assessments for visa applicants.
 - 4. Neither of the two adverse assessments in 2008-09 related to irregular maritime arrivals.
- b) 1. In this period, ASIO completed approximately 15,000 security assessments for visa applicants and irregular maritime arrivals.
 - 2. In this period, ASIO issued 988 assessments in relation to irregular maritime arrivals and the Oceanic Viking cohort.
 - 3. In this period, ASIO issued a total of eleven (11) adverse assessments.
 - 4. Of the eleven adverse assessments issued to DIAC from 1 July to 31 December 2009, one related to an irregular maritime arrival and four related to the Oceanic Viking cohort.

For operational security reasons, ASIO does not comment on details of assessments.