

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

**Question No.79**

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

Regarding the *Oceanic Viking*:

- a. What are the current patrol plans for the *Oceanic Viking*? Have these plans deviated from the *Oceanic Viking*'s regular patrol path?
- b. How much does it cost to run the *Oceanic Viking* on a regular patrol day?
- c. What is the regular amount of patrol days the *Oceanic Viking* does before there is a crew change?
- d. What is the breakdown of the crew on board the *Oceanic Viking* on a regular patrol day? i.e. How many are ACBPS staff, how many are P&O crew?

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

- a. Each patrol manages the operational situation encountered once the patrol is underway. During its recent patrol to the Southern Ocean, the *Oceanic Viking* undertook the planned mission, then on its way back to Australia diverted to undertake a medical transfer to Reunion Island.
- b. The *Oceanic Viking* costs approximately \$27,056 per day to patrol in Australia's Northern Waters and approximately \$55,382 per day to patrol in Southern Waters. These amounts exclude vessel lease costs, which are commercial-in-confidence.
- c. Patrols are planned for approximately 40 days, but will vary depending on the operational circumstances encountered.
- d. The breakdown of personnel on board the *Oceanic Viking* on a regular northern patrol is:
  - 20 to 30 Customs and Border Protection Marine Enforcement Officers;
  - one doctor;
  - two to three Australian Fisheries Management Authority officers; and
  - 20 contracted P&O crew.

The breakdown of personnel on board for a regular southern patrol is:

- 20 to 30 Customs and Border Protection Marine Enforcement Officers;
- one doctor;
- two to three Australian Fisheries Management Authority officers;
- 20 contracted P&O crew;
- seven contracted P&O steaming party;
- three Defence personnel; and
- two French Controllers from Centre Regional de Surveillance et de Sauvetage.