

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

Question No. 89

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

Please advise on the timeline of events and the nature of the arrangements on board the *Oceanic Viking* in October. In your answer, provide details of the passengers, staff, crew and ACBPS staff, and the timeline of when persons boarded and departed the vessel, and the events which happened on the vessel.

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

ACV *Oceanic Viking* began its patrol with 20 Customs and Border Protection Marine Enforcement Officers (MEOs), one officer from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), 19 P&O crew, and one doctor from the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD) on board.

On 18 October 2009, a total of 78 people from a vessel in distress were transferred onto the ACV *Oceanic Viking*.

A phased changeover of personnel was conducted over the period 31 October 2009 to 3 November 2009.

- On 31 October the doctor from AAD was replaced and the AFMA officer departed the vessel and was not replaced. 7 MEOs departed the vessel and 11 new MEOs joined the vessel.
- On 2 November a further 13 MEOs departed the vessel and 5 new MEOs joined the vessel.
- On 3 November a further 11 new MEOs joined the vessel.

On 6 November 19 P&O staff departed the vessel and were replaced by 20 new P&O staff.

On 13 November 22 of the rescued people departed from the vessel.

On 18 November the remaining 56 people departed from the vessel.