

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Program 1.1

Question No. 105

Senator Birmingham asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2012:

1. Please detail all resources committed by the Attorney-General's Department, as well as known contributions from other agencies, towards the return to Australia in January 2012 of three protesters who boarded the Japanese vessel Shonan Maru No 2.
2. What was the Department's total expenditure on this exercise?

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

The work of the Attorney-General's Department towards the return to Australia of the three protesters was undertaken within existing resources. Questions as to contributions from other agencies are best answered by those agencies.

Twelve officers from the International Law and Human Rights Division, the Criminal Justice Division and the International Crime Cooperation Division worked on this issue to varying degrees during the period from Sunday, 8 January 2012 to Monday, 16 January 2012, when the protesters arrived in Albany, Western Australia.

The Department does not record time spent on discrete issues by individual officers.