

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION

**Question No. 15**

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

**Senator BRANDIS:** Can I take you to program 1.1—Strategic criminal intelligence services. The PBS says that the ACC's strategic criminal intelligence services include the provision of an annual assessment of national criminal intelligence priorities. Is that a public document or is it a confidential document?

**Mr Lawler:** The priorities are a confidential document. They are in a document that is presented to the board of the Australian Crime Commission and approved by the commission.

**Senator BRANDIS:** People smuggling isn't one of them, is it?

**Mr Lawler:** I would need to take that on notice just to refresh my memory as to what the exact priorities are.

...

**Mr Lawler:** What can happen with our priorities is that they can often be bundled into a theme of particular activity, including people trafficking and people smuggling which are, as you know, quite different activities. I understand that people smuggling is amongst those, but I do not know whether it is stand-alone or not. In that context I just wanted to be careful to ensure that the information I provided was accurate.

**Senator BRANDIS:** That is fine. If your concern is for terminological exactness, take the question on notice.

**Mr Lawler:** Thank you.

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

Yes. People Smuggling and more specifically irregular maritime arrivals, is one of the National Criminal Intelligence Priorities.