

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

**Question No. 18**

**Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 12 February 2013:**

**Senator BRANDIS:** ... Has there been a noticeable increase in attempts to smuggle tobacco into Australia or to bring tobacco into Australia unlawfully since with the reduction in the allowance on 1 September?

**Mr Pezzullo:** And is there a nexus between those two matters? I think the answer to that question is no.

**Senator BRANDIS:** Sorry, you have posed to yourself a question other than the question that I asked you.

**Mr Pezzullo:** I am just trying to understand the question.

**Senator BRANDIS:** Just focus on my question and I will draw my own conclusions. Has there been, since 1 September, a noticeable increase in the amount of tobacco illegally introduced into Australia?

**Mr Pezzullo:** Did the question say 'as a result of' or—

**Senator BRANDIS:** No.

**Mr Pezzullo:** Okay, all right. Sorry, my apologies; I thought that it did. There is no evident trend in the data either way. I would probably prefer to take that on notice.

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

Based on detection data to 31 December 2012 there has been no noticeable increase in attempts to smuggle tobacco and cigarettes into Australia.