

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE14/157) PROGRAMME – Operation Sovereign Borders**

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Part 1

When a boat arrives, how is that arrival recorded?

Who records it? Presumably customs in the first instance?

Is it electronic or hard copy?

How are identities of those on board recorded and stored?

How are boat arrivals recorded and stored?

How are these boats identified?

How are these records passed on to DIBP?

How does DIBP store these records?

How then are these records used in the application process?

How are boats assessed as to whether they arrived on the Australian mainland or not?

Explain how this affects the processing of applications.

Part 2

Are turn-backs recorded?

If so, how?

Are the identities of people on board recorded?

If yes why?

If no, why?

If no, is this in line with international obligations?

*Answer:*

Part 1

When a Suspected Illegal Entry Vessel (SIEV) arrives at Christmas Island, or another Australian seaport, the department obtains biographical data from each illegal maritime arrival (IMA) on board the vessel and creates a hand written nominal roll. The department assigns each SIEV a name and each IMA is given an individual boat identification (Boat ID). Departmental officers subsequently manually transfer the data on the details of the SIEV and the identities of all IMAs on board on two universal departmental systems - the Compliance, Case Management, Detention and Settlement (CCMDS) portal and the Integrated Client Services Environment (ICSE). These records are available during any subsequent application process.

All IMAs have the same legal status regardless of whether they arrived in Australia on the mainland or not. This means that regardless of where an IMA arrives, they cannot make a valid application for a visa unless the Minister personally decides that it is in

the public interest to do so. Under section 198AD of the *Migration Act 1958*, all Irregular Maritime Arrivals are subject to transfer to a Regional Processing Country such as Papua New Guinea or Nauru for their protection claims to be assessed.

## Part 2

The answer to these questions appear to contain information pertaining to on-water and other operation activities, similar in nature to material which was subject to the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection's earlier claims of public interest immunity.