

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 25 February 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14-395)

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

Question

Does the Southern Ocean Maritime Patrol and Response (SOMPR) program have any vessels at its disposal? If so what are they and how many days have they been active in the Southern Ocean since September 7th, 2013?

1. Have the officers of this vessel undergone Cold climate survival training?

Answer:

Yes, the ACV *Ocean Protector* is the ACBPS Southern Ocean response vessel.

No Southern Ocean patrols have taken place this financial year due to the requirement for ACV *Ocean Protector* to complete high priority taskings for Operation Sovereign Borders.

All officers on board ACV *Ocean Protector* undertake Certificate of Safety Training which includes survival skills in cold water and is endorsed by AMSA. The crew is also provided with training in the use of dry suits and additional cold climate clothing. Safety briefs are given to all passengers and crew on board prior to embarking on a voyage in the Southern Ocean.