



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Customs Service**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Customs House  
5 Constitution Avenue  
Canberra City ACT 2601

Phone: 02 6275 6800  
Fax: 02 62756796

Mr Peter Charley  
Executive Producer  
Lateline  
Australian Broadcasting Corporation  
700 Harris Street  
ULTIMO NSW 2007

Dear Mr Charley

I am writing in relation to the story on illegal Torres Strait trade broadcast on Tuesday this week.

I assure you that Customs takes its responsibilities in the Torres Strait seriously and it is disappointing that claims were aired without any approach being made to us. Many of these have been aired before and have failed to be substantiated.

Notwithstanding this I take particularly seriously any allegations of corruption amongst Customs officers. Accordingly if you have any material to substantiate the claims made on the program I would appreciate receiving it.

Yours sincerely

Original signed

Michael Carmody  
Chief Executive Officer

21 April 2006