

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 43

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 26 May 2008:

Provide information of every reduction in all areas of the operations, classified both by function and by the locality at which the position to be eliminated was hitherto based?

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

The following table shows planned reductions in staffing levels (FTE) for 2008/09 released in conjunction with Customs 2008/09 Plan.

Customs planning for 2008/09 has been directed at ensuring there is no reduction in the effectiveness of its management of border risks. Its approaches include planning proportionately higher reductions in corporate support areas and the development of improvement strategies for managing these risks.

The plan will be closely monitored throughout the year and adjusted as necessary.

Area	As at 1 July 2008	As at 20 June 2009
Passengers	1637	1581
Cargo	975	925
Compliance	340	326
Trade	177	171
Enforcement and Investigations	897	865
Intelligence and Targeting	470	453.5
Staffing	169	146
Infrastructure	289	242
Planning	60	50

Notes

1. Changes are currently being finalised for Customs IT.
2. Average staff affordability for Passengers will increase from 1568 in 2007-08 to 1617 for 2008-09. However, planning for matching resources to workload will mean that Passengers starts the year with 1637 FTE (following a large Customs Trainee intake) and there will be a small increase over that to match peak Christmas/New Year workload, before closing the year with 1581 FTE.
3. The 1 July 2008 staffing numbers for Cargo are slightly more than the 952.5 figure given at the Estimates hearing.

State Breakdown of staff reductions:

	ACT	NSW	VIC	QLD	NT	WA	SA	TAS	TOTAL
Cargo	27		10	4	0	6	3	0	50
Compliance	+0.21	4.84	6.89	3.24		+0.86		+0.66	13.24
Trade	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	6
Enforcement Operations	5	6	2	4	1	1	0	0	19
Investigations	0	5	0	1	0	2	1	0	9
Resource & Development	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Strategic Development Enforcement Operations	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Intelligence	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	6
Targeting	0	#	#6.5	#	0	#	#	0	6.5
Strategic Development Intelligence & Targeting	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Staffing	10	7	1	2	0	2	1	0	23
Infrastructure	14	12	15	4	0	1	1	0	47
Planning	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10

Notes

1. Targeting staffing reductions of 6.5 FTE will occur across regions marked #. The exact distribution is dependent upon finalisation of the implementation plan for the Cargo Targeting Review.
2. The distribution of staffing for Passengers will be determined across the year having regard to passenger movements in particular regions. Consistent with this an investment is being made at the start of the year in Perth and Darwin where passenger growth is significant.