

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

**Question No. 46**

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

Provide a figure of the cost for each of the [passenger] movements

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

The estimated cost to Customs of processing passenger movements at airports has been calculated by dividing the cost of providing the service by the number of passengers. This method of calculation was provided by the CEO, Mr Carmody, during the estimates hearing.

Customs records costs against activities through an Activity Based Costing process. There are 5 activities that relate directly to the processing of passengers by Customs at international airports. They are:

- aircraft reporting and clearance;
- primary line clearance;
- enforcement, examination and response;
- intelligence and targeting, air border security initiatives; and
- tourist refund scheme.

The value of the costs recorded against those activities for the 2006/07 year, including the attribution of indirect corporate costs, is \$203.7m. The number of passengers processed during that same year was 22.4 million. Therefore the notional cost per passenger in relation to these Customs activities is \$9.09.