

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

Question No. 32

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 25 May 2010:

How many instances have there been since August 2008 where unauthorised vessels have made direct calls, either by them or through a contact overseas to Australian Customs and Border Protection Service or Australian Maritime Security Agency?

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

Since August 2008, four calls have been identified as being received by the Australian Maritime Security Operations Centre (AMSOC) of the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service from vessels believed to be Suspect Irregular Entry Vessels.

Additionally, on 16-17 October 2009 the Australian Defence Force Robertson Barracks (Darwin) switchboard received calls from a person claiming to be on board a vessel in distress. The calls were relayed to Border Protection Command (BPC) Darwin, and then to the AMSOC and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC).

There were a further five instances where calls for assistance were received by the RCC.