

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

**Question No. 4**

**Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 29 May 2013:**

**Senator HUMPHRIES:** Of that seizure of 23.8 tonnes [of illicit drugs], how many actual seizures does that amount to? Was that all in one seizure? Or was it 20 seizures et cetera?

**Mr Pezzullo:** No, there were thousands. I do have quite a lot of data on that. If you just allow me to go to that—or perhaps, Roman, you may want to start breaking it down. But, essentially, if I can start giving a general answer, and then perhaps Mr Quaedvlieg can back it up with some more detail: there are thousands of seizures. Some of them are as few as a few tablets or a small satchel of powder in a single envelope—that is counted as a seizure—and it goes right up to quite significant hauls of half a container or more of illicit drugs.

**Senator HUMPHRIES:** Okay. I am happy for you to take that on notice. Could I turn to border protection related issues.

**Mr Pezzullo:** Sorry, Senator, if I may—just to close that out: we will take it on notice, because there is actually a table I would like to provide to the Senate. But in the reporting year in question, for the drug report for 2011-12 that I mentioned, the number of detections—which, as I said, include everything from a full container right down to a small letter—was just under 7,000, to answer your question directly. But we will give you a breakdown and some more detail with the table.

**Senator HUMPHRIES:** Okay, thank you.

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

The Australian Crime Commission (ACC) released its annual Illicit Drug Data Report (IDDR) on 20 May 2013, stating that during the financial year 2011-12 a record 23.8 tonnes of illicit drugs were seized nationally. The ACC reported that nationally, there were 76,083 seizures that made up the 23.8 tonnes of illicit drugs.

**Drug Detection numbers and total weight for the five main illicit drug categories and precursors – 2011-12**

<b>Drug Name</b>	<b>Detection numbers 2011-12</b>	<b>Total weight (kg) 2011-12 (a)</b>
<b>Cannabis</b>	2660	16.9
<b>Cocaine</b>	979	785.7
<b>Heroin</b>	179	256.2
<b>MDMA</b>	964	12
<b>ATS (b)</b>	1078	347.6
<b>Precursors</b>	1026	2,079.2
<b>Total – Main drug types</b>	<b>6,886</b>	<b>3,497.6</b>
<b>PIEDs (c)</b>	8,721	N/A*
<b>Other Drugs (d)</b>	6,221	N/A*
<b>Total additional drug categories</b>	<b>14,942</b>	
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>21,828</b>	

\* **NOTE:** Estimated weight values for PIEDs and ‘other’ drugs are not shown as there is no consistent unit of measure available. Items in these categories can be measured in grams, volume, dose unit or capsules.

(a) Weight shown may be the confirmed weight (if available) or the gross, net or estimated weight. Where weight of detections of ATS, MDMA (ecstasy) and precursors was not available, an estimate of 0.29 grams per tablet was used.

(b) ATS = amphetamine-type stimulants

(c) PIEDs = performance- and image-enhancing drugs

(d) ‘Other’ drug detections refer to stimulants other than cocaine or amphetamine-type stimulants, narcotics/analgesics other than heroin, psychotropics/hallucinogens other than MDMA (ecstasy) or cannabis products, and all depressants and sedatives. Excludes precursors.