

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

Question No. 51

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 30 May 2013:

Senator BRANDIS: Just pausing there, please, Mr Irvine. Before, under the pressure of the very large increase in the influx of IMAs, you decided to change the way in which you undertook these assessments and introduced what you call the triaging process, it would have been 100 per cent, wouldn't it? In the days when we had a few dozen boat people a year—

Mr Irvine: Yes, and it was up until about four or five years ago.

Senator BRANDIS: Can you tell me with a little bit more specificity when the procedure was changed?

Mr Irvine: To give you precise timing, I would have to take that on notice.

Senator BRANDIS: It was about four or five years ago?

Mr Irvine: 2010 sticks in my mind for one set of decisions. I would need to go back and check on the other one.

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

ASIO first commenced triaging the irregular maritime arrival (IMA) caseload in January 2010 and this has been the subject of ongoing refinement. The introduction of the intelligence-led, risk managed process in 2010 brought the management of the IMA cohort more into line with how ASIO security assesses all other visa applicants to Australia. This approach allows ASIO to focus its efforts on those areas which intelligence indicates pose the greater threat.

In applying the Security Triaging Framework, 100 per cent of IMAs who are found to be owed protection are checked against ASIO databases and their background information from DIAC is reviewed for any potential issues of security concern. It is after this security evaluation that IMAs which are identified as requiring more in-depth attention then undergo further, more detailed investigation by ASIO.