

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 170

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 31 October 2005:

- a) Is the Biometrics for Border Control program complete?
- b) Were the funds fully expended?
- c) How were the funds expended? (specify allocation)
- d) Were any positions tied directly to this program?
 - (i) If yes, now the program has been expired are they redundant?
- e) Did it meet budget?
- f) How much did it go over or under?
- g) Please provide a breakdown of final expenditure?

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

- a) Yes, the Biometrics for Border Control measure is complete.
- b) All funding provided for this measure has been expended.
- c) \$0.864m was allocated for employee expenses, \$0.894m was allocated for supplier, maintenance and legal expenses while \$0.316m was allocated to depreciation and corporate expenses. Capital funding of \$1.2m was also allocated for the purchase of equipment and the property fit out associated with that equipment.
- d) There were 10 FTE tied directly to the Biometrics for Border Control program as a result of this funding.
 - (i) These 10 positions are no longer assigned to the Biometrics for Border Control program and the services of the 10 FTE have been redirected to other priorities.
- e) The measure was over budget.
- f) Customs was appropriated \$3.3m by government for the Smartgate trial and spent \$3.5m. Therefore the measure was over budget by \$0.2m.
- g) Customs spent approximately \$0.6m on employees, \$1.3m in supplier and \$1.6m in capital.