

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 174

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

- a) How much of the funding provided for the increased use of x ray for containers has been expended?
- b) Has all funding been expended?
 - (i) If not, how much funding has yet to be expended?
- c) Was there any variation to the stated budget for this program?
 - (i) If so, what was the variation?
 - (ii) Was additional funding provided, or did the program lose funding?
 - (iii) If the program lost funding, where was the funding transferred, and why?
 - (iv) Were any stop-gap measures put in place to ensure the continued operation of this program despite the variations?'
- d) What was the stated outcome of the program at the time the funding commenced?
 - (i) Did the program meet its stated outcome?
 - (ii) If not, in which areas did it not meet its stated outcome?
 - (iii) Were any other measures or additional funding required to meet the stated outcome of the program?
- e) Has a review been conducted of the program?
 - (i) If so, could you provide a copy?
 - (ii) If not, why not?
 - (iii) Is one being conducted, or will one be conducted?
 - (iv) Are there any interim reports available?
 - (v) Are there any plans to produce any interim reports?

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

- a) All funds provided up until 31 October 2005 for increased use of x-ray for containers have been expended.
- b) Yes, as outlined above.
 - (i) Not Applicable.
- c) No, there has been no variation to the stated budget for this program.
 - (i) Not Applicable.
 - (ii) No.
 - (iii) Not Applicable.
 - (iv) No.
- d) The stated program outcome was to increase the inspection rate of sea cargo containers at the Customs container examination facilities by funding an additional Saturday shift for Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Fremantle and an additional afternoon shift in Brisbane.
 - (i) Yes. Inspection throughput has increased and Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Fremantle have commenced the Saturday shifts. Brisbane has commenced afternoon shifts from Monday to Friday.
 - (ii) Not applicable.
 - (iii) No.
- e) Yes. The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) undertook a performance audit of the container examination facilities in 2004.

- (i) ANAO Audit Report No. 16 *Container Examination Facilities: Australian Customs Service* was tabled on 14 December 2004. It is available on the ANAO website www.anao.gov.au
- (ii) Not applicable.
- (i) Not applicable.
- (ii) Not applicable.