

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 OCTOBER 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(83) Output 1.3: Border Security

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

On 8 October 2008 an article in The Australian quoted Minister Evans stating "I haven't ruled out the possibility that these two boats might have been launched by the one people smuggling syndicate" and that "We don't know as yet but certainly I am of the view that there might be a connection between the two." What investigations have been undertaken by the Minister or the Department to ascertain any connection between the two boat arrivals? Please provide details including copies of any report regarding the same time.

Answer:

Subsequent to the Minister's statement, no connection has, to date, been established between the two boat arrivals.