

Response provided verbally to Martin Chulov of the Australian, 25/05/05.

Can't comment specifically on what operations we may have run in the past, but I can say the following.

Customs role is to evaluate a whole range of border security threats in the airport environment – and that's not a new process.

While we can't comment on which groups of people may, at different times, have been the subject of Customs interest, we constantly assess the risk posed by all groups working at the airport.

Our Air Border Security teams, previously known as Tarmac, have conducted operations in relation to specific intelligence and risk assessments, and will continue to do so.

This includes daily aircraft searches and operations in baggage handling areas.

As an example, in the last month we have conducted 120 partial aircraft searches in Brisbane alone. That regime, and ongoing oversight of baggage make-up areas, is in place at all international airports.

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