

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(90) Program 3.1: Border Management

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What is the Australian Government doing, including with other countries, to help stop people smuggling? List all activities with all countries involved.

Answer:

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) is one of a number of key agencies operating from a whole-of-government perspective who manage and secure Australia's border through its layered and offshore border concept.

The anti-people smuggling work the Australian Government undertakes, including with other countries, falls into the portfolio responsibilities of a number of Commonwealth agencies, not just DIAC.

To respond providing the details would require the Department to divert a large number of senior departmental officers from undertaking other critical responsibilities for an extended period. The Department considers that it would be unreasonable to divert such resources to this task.