

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

Question No. 33

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2010:

Of the 17 Customs staff currently posted overseas, where are they posted and what are their roles?

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

The primary role of Customs and Border Protection officers deployed internationally is to address risks ahead of Australia's border and to monitor and influence positions on global customs and border management issues. The Customs and Border Protection officers represent the interests of the Australian Government by building networks with counterpart agencies, influencing the development of trade and border management policies through bilateral and multilateral forums and participating in whole-of-government issues.

Customs and Border Protection officers overseas work with offshore partner agencies to disrupt and defeat threats to the border before they arrive. For example, our officers in Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur and Colombo are particularly focused on efforts to counter maritime people smuggling in the region.

Customs and Border Protection also deploys officers whose role focuses on capacity building with developing customs administrations. These officers are currently deployed in Papua New Guinea as part of the Australian Government's Strongim Gavman (Strong Government) Program and to the Solomon Islands under the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands Customs Modernisation Program.

At the time of writing, Customs and Border Protection has 18 staff currently posted overseas (table below refers).

Location	Number of Officers	Title
Belgium (Brussels)	1	Counsellor Brussels
China (Beijing)	2	Counsellor Beijing First Secretary Beijing
Indonesia (Jakarta)	4	Minister Counsellor Jakarta Counsellor Jakarta First Secretary Jakarta (2)
Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur)	2	Counsellor Kuala Lumpur First Secretary Kuala Lumpur
Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby)	4	Foreign Agency Advisors (4)
Solomon Islands (Honiara)	2	Foreign Agency Advisors (2)
Sri Lanka (Colombo)	1	Counsellor Colombo
Thailand (Bangkok)	1	Counsellor Bangkok
USA (Washington)	1	Counsellor Washington