

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

Question No. 52

Senator Rhiannon asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2011:

Senator RHIANNON: There are a number of young Indonesians in Australian jails who worked on boats that brought asylum seekers to Australia. Does ASIO have any involvement with these young Indonesians—I am referring to the young men who are under age—at any stage once they reach Australia?

Mr Irvine: Off the top of my head, no.

Senator RHIANNON: Does that mean no?

Mr Irvine: To the best of my knowledge, definitely no. I am not sure whether they have been interviewed, but I think it would be most unlikely.

Senator RHIANNON: As there does seem to be some uncertainty, could you take it on notice, please.

Mr Irvine: Yes, I will take it on notice.

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

As at 17 October 2011, ASIO has not interviewed those Indonesians claiming to be minors who worked on boats related to maritime people smuggling and are currently detained in Australian prisons or immigration detention. For operational and national security reasons, it would be inappropriate to provide further information relating to ASIO investigations.