

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0120) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Kim Carr (L&CA 30) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: Are you able to tell us on how many occasions Customs have been used to render assistance to vessels in Australian waters? Mr Pezzullo: If your question is a general one that pertains to the period going back to 2008-09, when these vessels really started to arrive after a number of years of absence, the answer would be: in the hundreds. But we can take that on notice. ... Senator KIM CARR: Would you be able to provide me with a month-by-month breakdown? Mr Pezzullo: Yes: I will just confirm that with Admiral Johnston. Can we do stats by month? Rear Adm. Johnston: Yes. Mr Pezzullo: Yes, I have just conferred with Admiral Johnston. We can do that by month. Senator KIM CARR: Can you provide that information for this year? Mr Pezzullo: Yes, we should be able to. Senator KIM CARR: The calendar year, 2013? Mr Pezzullo: Yes, I do not see any reason why not. These are things in relation to which we keep detailed records. Senator KIM CARR: So you will be able to provide me with the number of unauthorised maritime arrivals in that period, the number of vessels.

Answer:

Between 1 January 2013 and the commencement of Operation Sovereign Borders on 17 September 2013 inclusive, Border Protection Command (BPC), utilising both Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and Defence assigned assets, was tasked to respond to 106 requests for assistance within the Australian Search and Rescue Region (ASRR) and the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone (AEEZ) by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority Rescue Coordination Centre (AMSA RCC).

A monthly breakdown is on the table below:

Table 1 – Number of occasions BPC assets were tasked to respond to requests for assistance by AMSA RCC within the ASSR and AEEZ.

Month	Number
January	2
February	5
March	8
April	20
May	16
June	16
July	25
August	9
September *	5
Total	106

* Up to and including 17 September 2013.

Information relating to operational and on-water matters after the commencement of Operation Sovereign Borders on 18 September 2013, will not be provided.