

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

#### **(SE13/0410) PROGRAMME – ACBPS**

Senator Sarah Hanson-Young (L&CA 28) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I will leave the bulk of the questions I would have asked for the session on Operation Sovereign Borders. I would like to go to the comments made about budget, staffing levels and the impact that your services and operations are actually having on the total department. Could you just outline for me what the increase is of staff time now being spent on organisational capacity across your department, the immigration department and others, because of Operation Sovereign Borders?

Mr Pezzullo: I will not speak for any other agency, senator.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: No, I am asking for yours across those issues.

Mr Pezzullo: I probably need to answer it in two parts. One is in relation to our maritime operations. I think we took on notice this morning to get an exact attribution of the support we directly supply to Border Protection Command. You can think of that as a joint venture between ourselves and the Department of Defence, so I contribute assets, people and time, the CDF allocates his resources and that creates BPC. But we also have a maritime division that does the sustainment of all the vessels and all the rest of it. We will come back in response to the previous question taken on notice about the exact attribution and how that has changed over time, because that was the burden of the previous question.

*Answer:*

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service supports Operation Sovereign Borders (OSB) through the secondment of existing staff and resources previously allocated to counter people smuggling operations to the OSB Joint Agency Taskforce.

No additional staff have been recruited for the purposes of supporting OSB.