

Dear Marina,

Unfortunately the limited time frame has caught us by surprise as the National Office of the CBFCA is based in Brisbane and it is a Public holiday in Queensland today. My reading of the attached extract from the hansard does not provide a very specific question other than whether or not we have a relationship with the Business Partner Group. Therefore:

a.. I can confirm that the CBFCA is NOT a member of the Business Partners Group (BPG)

b.. I would reject the notion that the CBFCA is "part of that business partnership group in a loose or formal sense"

I have since read the draft version of hansard and the comments on page 26 by Mr. Buckpitt from Customs provides the missing link. It is revealed that a page was omitted by error from the BPG submission and that the submission was prepared by Margaret Milne. Milne is a person that I know and someone who I can confirm is a member of the CBFCA. I should point out that we have in excess of 1000 members and the views of any individual are exactly that - individual views.

They do not necessarily represent the views of the CBFCA!

I am aware that Margaret Milne has played a role in the "pilot partner" program. To my knowledge the CBFCA has not been informed of any recent consultation between the BPG and Customs with regards to the ACP.

I find it inappropriate that details of development of a program of this significance are not appropriately distributed to the entire import community in a timely fashion. I stand by my comment that the CBFCA members represent in excess of 70% of all import declarations made to Customs. I also refute the suggestion that only very large importers have access to cutting edge IT capacity in the year 2006. Accordingly the ability of an importer to be "highly compliant" must not be prescriptive according to volume of imports or the level of IT infrastructure in place. There are many other critical factors that come into play.

Regards,

Darryl Sharp

CBFCA - Vice Chair