



# CUSTOMS ROLE AT OUR AIRPORTS

## WE DO

- Operate at international airports** in partnership with a range of agencies.\*
- Check passports** and process all arriving and departing passengers on behalf of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.
- Analyse advance passenger information** to identify travellers who may be of interest to border agencies.
- Search arriving passengers**, baggage and aircraft for drugs, weapons and other prohibited imports.
- Seize prohibited items** including weapons, offensive pornography, wildlife, products made from endangered species, commercial quantities of counterfeit goods, etc.
- Patrol airside**, on the tarmac, and in baggage handling areas to detect and deter criminal activity.
- Have the power to search** passengers' baggage and to examine and copy documents.
- Use labradors to search** people and baggage for drugs.
- Collect duty and tax on items** such as alcohol and cigarettes when travellers exceed duty free allowances.
- Administer the Tourist Refund Scheme** which enables travellers to claim a refund of GST paid on single purchases over \$300.

## WE DO NOT

- Have **any role at domestic airports** or terminals.
- Routinely screen or search outgoing bags for drugs**, but may do so if specific risks are identified.
- Place restrictions on how much cash** can be brought in or taken out of Australia, but amounts greater than A\$10,000 **must** be declared.
- Conduct physical security checks at access points** to restricted areas.
- Detain people who breach visa conditions** (Immigration carries out this role).
- Have any **role in the checking-in, weighing or handling of outgoing passengers' bags** (airlines carry out this task).
- Security **screen outgoing bags or people for guns, explosives or sharp instruments** (this is an aviation security task).
- Seize foodstuffs, and other items of plant and/or animal origin, including souvenirs** (this is a Quarantine role).
- Use beagles to search people and baggage for food** (these are Quarantine dogs).
- Have **responsibility for airport or aircraft physical security** (legislative responsibility for this lies with the Department of Transport and Regional Services).

\*Agencies include the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS), Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA), Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS), the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the AFP Protective Service.



# WHO'S WHO AT THE AIRPORT?

## AGENCY

## UNIFORM COLOURS

## PURPOSE

### Australian Customs Service

Internal airport: Blue shirt, grey skirt/  
trousers, navy blue jumper.

External / tarmac: yellow vest, navy blue  
polo T-shirt, blue cargo trousers, blue cap.

The Australian Customs Service provides effective border management, that, with minimal disruption to legitimate trade and travel, prevents illegal movement of people and goods across the border. Customs works with other Australian and international agencies, on counter-terrorism and the fight against organised crime.

### Australian Federal Police (AFP)

Blue shirt, white shirt, navy jumper, navy  
blue trousers.

The Australian Federal Police provide a Unified Policing Model at Australian airports. The model is under direct command and control of the Airport Police Commander at the 11 major airports across the country. Included is a 24-hour Counter Terrorism First Response (CTFR) Capability, Uniform Policing, Regional Rapid Deployment teams, investigation of organised crime and an intelligence capability.

### Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)

Maroon jumper, cream shirt, beige  
trousers/ skirt.

Baggage handlers in green polo shirts and  
beige pants

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service is responsible for the quarantine clearance of incoming passengers and their baggage. Other tasks include quarantine clearance of aircraft, monitoring for human disease vectors at and near airports and supervising aircraft waste disposal. Airports Program officers are trained to identify and seize items that could harm Australia's plant, animal and human health, or the environment.

Baggage handlers are employed by AQIS to assist with the movement of passengers' luggage.

**For media inquiries call 02 6275 6793.**

For information on all other Customs matters, contact the **Customs Information and Support Centre on 1300 363 263**, email [information@customs.gov.au](mailto:information@customs.gov.au), or browse the website [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au).