

New duty free concession limits



Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator Chris Ellison with Customs officers at Sydney International Airport

New limits on the value of duty-free goods that travellers can bring into Australia took effect from 1 February this year.

Travellers can now bring the following goods duty and/or tax free in their accompanied baggage:

- AUD\$900 worth of goods (AUD\$450 for people aged under 18) including gifts, souvenirs, cameras, electronic equipment, leather goods, perfume concentrates, jewellery, watches and sports equipment. Previously, the general concession limit was AUD\$400 for adults and AUD\$200 for minors.
- 2.25 litres of alcoholic beverages for each passenger aged 18 and over (previously 1.125 litres).
- 250 cigarettes, or 250 grams of cigars or tobacco products for each passenger aged 18 and over (no change).

Family members travelling together can pool their duty free concessions.

Crew members are entitled to the same concessions as passengers, but with a general concession amount of AUD\$450.

Under the new rules, if any traveller exceeds any of the above concession limits, he or she would be charged duty and/or tax on the entire purchase within that group of items.

The changes are the result of a comprehensive review and recognise industry concerns that the concession levels, which had changed only once since 1987, were outdated.

Team provides support in PNG

Australian Customs officers have been working in Port Moresby alongside their PNG counterparts as one component of the current long-term Australian whole-of-government aid program to PNG.

The Enhanced Cooperation Program is a five-year program that ranges across a large number of PNG government agencies. For Customs, the goal is to improve revenue collection and strengthen international trade security and border integrity by building the sustainable capacity of PNG Customs and to enable further development beyond the life of the program.

Customs involvement in the Program has entered its second year with its first full deployment of four officials.