

DOGS HELP DETECT COCAINE INSIDE PICTURES

A 46-year-old man appeared in a Sydney court charged with importing cocaine after Customs officers detected approximately 2kg of the drug hidden inside several wooden art works at Sydney International Airport.

The man, a foreign national, arrived on a flight from Argentina and was selected for a baggage examination by Customs officers.

Customs drug detector dogs reacted positively and an ionscan test also

indicated the presence of cocaine. Australian Federal Police officers arrested the passenger and charged him with importing a prohibited import under the provisions of the *Customs Act 1901*.

Customs NSW Regional Director David Collins said the detector dogs played an invaluable role in helping Customs to protect Australia's borders from drug trafficking.

"In this instance, the combined efforts of

Customs and the AFP have prevented a large quantity of cocaine from reaching the streets of Sydney," he said.

STEROIDS SEIZED AT BRISBANE AIRPORT

Customs officers at Brisbane International Airport found approximately 20,000 steroid tablets taped to the legs and body of a passenger arriving in Australia.

Officers selected for a baggage examination a 54-year-old man arriving on a flight from Thailand.

Customs Director of Passengers at Brisbane International Airport, Kaylene Zakharoff, said, "Officers then conducted a frisk search which indicated concealed packages.

"A body search was conducted to reveal packages on the passenger's upper thighs under bike shorts, and under football socks.

"This is another example of how Customs continued vigilance at the border has prevented a significant quantity of performance-enhancing drugs from reaching the Australian community."

The man was charged under the *Customs Act 1901* with importing a prohibited import.

This seizure follows another alleged importation of more than 4000 steroid tablets into Melbourne. The steroids were detected by officers using x-ray technology at the Melbourne Airmail Transit Centre over a two-week period.

Anabolic steroids are performance- and image-enhancing drugs and cannot be brought into Australia without approval from the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

These detections are a direct result of Customs commitment to screening 100 per cent of incoming mail.

They also reflect the hard work of Customs investigators and officers, and their efforts to protect the Australian community.