

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 3

Program 1.6

Question No. 7

Senator Hanson-Young asked the following question at the hearing on 23 May 2012:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: ... When was the first time representation from the Indonesian consulate occurred?

Mr I Anderson: I would have to take that on notice. We do have regular discussions. There is actually a regular process of engagement between agencies of the Australian government and the Indonesian consulate on a range of issues, and crew have been one of the issues typically on the agenda for some time. It is not necessarily about whether crew are minors or not but generally explaining the processes by which the crew are dealt with in the criminal justice system and then in the corrections system if they are convicted. Like any consulate, they have concerns about how their citizens are dealt with. I would have to take on notice when they first raised concerns about that.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: If you could.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

On 13 April 2011, a representative from the Attorney-General's Department (AGD) attended a meeting with representatives of the Indonesian Embassy and Indonesian consulates in Australia. Available records indicate this meeting was the first time AGD received representations from Indonesian consular officials about the treatment of Indonesian nationals who claimed to be minors. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the Australian Federal Police, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Department of Immigration and Citizenship.