

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014**

**IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

**(BE14/032) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service**

Senator Singh (L&CA 91) asked:

Senator SINGH: What about the details of the MoU signed between Minister Morrison and Dr Zahid in relation to transnational crime?

Mr Bowles: I do not know off the top of my head, but there is a joint working group between Australia and Malaysia on transnational crime more broadly. There was a meeting of the joint working group in Australia earlier this year—I cannot remember the exact time but it might have been February—which I co-chaired with a Malaysian counterpart where we started to talk about all of the issues. The MoU is something that has been in play and negotiated between both countries for quite a while. I believe it was signed when the minister was in Putrajaya doing that speech. I was not with him at the particular stage, though. I can confirm that on notice, if you like.

Senator SINGH: Okay, confirm that on notice.

*Answer:*

In October 2013, the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, the Hon. Scott Morrison MP, announced that he would progress Malaysia's proposed Memorandum of Understanding on Transnational Crime in consultation with the Attorney-General. The draft text is currently being negotiated between Australian and Malaysian officials.