

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/080) PROGRAMME – 1.1: Border Management

Senator Xenophon (L&CA 40) asked:

Senator XENOPHON: In reports that I have seen, he was described as the torturer in chief. I guess there is a broader question. Can the department advise whether people coming to Australia, whether as asylum seekers or through other channels, are vetted for their human rights records? In that context, in the United States the required legal forms ask applicants whether they have 'ever ordered, incited, arrested or otherwise participated in causing harm or suffering to any person because of race, religion, nationality or other affiliation'.

Mr Bowles: We make a broad range of assessments about any individual who comes to this country either legally or illegally.

Senator XENOPHON: I understand that. But in terms of the standard question that is asked in the United States, I think the controversy in the US was because this person somehow managed to get in. Does Australia ask applicants broadly similar questions?

Mr Bowles: We have a broadly similar process.

CHAIR: That will have to be it, Senator Xenophon.

Senator XENOPHON: On notice, can you provide the answers to the questions asked?

Answer:

Anyone seeking to come to or remain in Australia must satisfy the character and security requirements of the *Migration Act 1958* (the Act) and regulations.

Yes, similar questions are asked.