

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

#### **(SE14/376) PROGRAMME – 3.5 and 3.6: Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA) Offshore Management**

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

When did the Offshore Biometrics programme start?

- Please explain the Budget for this programme in greater detail.
- Is there any connection between this program and the roll out of the Government's new procedures for biometric collection under the new anti-terrorism laws?

*Answer:*

The Offshore Biometrics Programme started in December 2010. The expansion of the Offshore Biometrics Programme commenced this financial year (2014-15).

- As originally approved, the Australian Government covered the costs of collecting client biometrics;
- 'User-pays' arrangements commenced on 1 July 2014, expecting to generate savings of \$18.6 million; and
- From 1 July 2014 clients have paid for the collection of their biometrics.

While the Offshore Biometrics Programme is specifically aimed at visa applicants located overseas, this programme and the roll out of the Government's new procedures for biometric collection under the new anti-terrorism laws both form part of the portfolio's overall biometrics strategy.