

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(SE16/077) - OSB JATF - June update - Operation Sovereign Borders**

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA) written:

The June OSB update refers to the return of 21 people to Vietnam.

What was done to assess whether these people had protection claims?

How long were they kept on water?

Was the boat scuttled by Australian authorities?

Was anything done to by Australian authorities to monitor whether any harm came to these people after they were returned?

*Answer:*

The individuals concerned were interviewed in person and assessed to determine whether their return to Vietnam would be consistent with Australia's non-refoulement obligations. This process confirmed they could be safely returned.

The Government seeks to minimise the amount of time individuals are held on water. In this instance the individuals were held on water for seven days.

The vessel was disposed of as it was unseaworthy.

The Vietnamese Government provided assurances to the Australian Government that those returned would be well cared for and would not be persecuted for their illegal departure from Vietnam.