

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 February 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(61) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Nettle asked:

What discussions has the ombudsman had with the secretary and Minister regarding the unlawful detentions?"

Answer:

Further to the Department's response to Senator Crossin's 1 November 2005 question on notice at the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing (question 59), the Ombudsman has informed the Department that he has not had any discussions with the Minister on the other referred immigration matters.

The Ombudsman has also informed the Department that he spoke with the Secretary about the Vivian Alvarez matter on two occasions, prior to providing the final report to the Secretary and the Minister. He advises that on one occasion the Ombudsman, accompanied by other staff, provided the Secretary and some of his staff with a briefing about the content of the report and on the other occasion the Secretary spoke to the Ombudsman to elicit his opinion on a request from a Senate committee to interview officers of the Department prior to the publication of the Ombudsman's report on the Alvarez matter.

The Ombudsman has informed the Department that he has spoken with the Secretary to advise him on the timing of release of his next report into a referred matter.