

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 FEBRUARY 2009**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

### **(19) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay**

Senator Fierravanti-Wells (L&CA 59-60) asked:

What ministerial intervention categories are there? Are we seeing trends? It would be useful just to get a picture of the trends. If you have ages it would be interesting to see the nature of the interventions for which you are being asked. Are there shifts in that? I will ask you to provide what you have at the moment and then at the next estimates committee we will get an update in relation to that.

*Answer:*

The Department does not keep records relating to the categories of ministerial intervention requests made to the Minister for exercise of his discretionary powers. It is, therefore, not possible to provide any information in relation to trends in the categories of ministerial intervention requests, nor is it possible to provide information or identify trends in respect of the ages of persons making a ministerial intervention request against the categories of requests.

Where a person makes a request to the Minister for the exercise of his discretionary powers, it is assessed against the unique and exceptional circumstances contained in the Minister's guidelines. In many cases a person may meet more than one of the unique and exceptional circumstances.