

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(36) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Humphries (L&C 77-78) asked:

In the course of negotiations dealing with the passengers on the *Oceanic Viking* were there any discussions between the Australian and Indonesian governments that brought in the status of the 255 or so Tamils on the boat that is moored at Merak?

*Answer:*

The Government has made it clear to Indonesia that the *Oceanic Viking* and Merak cases are distinct and should be treated as such.

The details of discussions between governments should appropriately remain confidential between these governments.