

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(319) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

The Ombudsman alleges that “the planning process may not have given sufficient attention to co-ordination with and between other agencies, as well as the Department itself” (p.1 of the Report). What specific changes have been implemented following this advice from the Ombudsman?

Answer:

The Department has undertaken ongoing review of IMA processing arrangements and in that context has introduced a number of efficiencies through data sharing and integrated processing across the range of stakeholder agencies.

Formal and informal communication forums have been streamlined and improved, both at the National level and on location, to ensure that all stakeholders are appropriately briefed on, and can respond to, IMA matters. IMA operations have progressively become business as usual activities and processes associated with IMAs are now considered routine core agency business. In order to support this process a Departmental SES officer position has been created on Christmas Island to take the operational lead on IMA matters.