

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/018) PROGRAMME – 1.1.3: Office of MARA

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA 19-20) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: In relation to the questions I was asking of the office of MARA, what information was given to migration agents in relation to the direction that was given in relation to family reunion in December? Direction No. 62, that is.

Mr Bowles: I am not sure that the appropriate person is here—

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That is fine. Could you take that on notice, please?

Mr Bowles: If we can come back in the appropriate outcome, I am happy to look at that, yes. We can probably give you a bit of an answer now.

Answer:

On 9 January 2014, the department wrote to registered migration agents to inform them of the introduction of Direction 62 and its scope and recommending that affected applicants cancel any travel plans, appointments for DNA tests and health and character checks.