

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 MAY 2009**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

### **(74) Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network**

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

#### Community Care Pilot

Although the Budget provided funding to ensure the Community Care Pilot is formally turned into an ongoing program, the fact that the early intervention strategy did not include funding for legal advice is disappointing.

There needs to be an expansion in access to the free IAAAS scheme to ensure the provision of competent legal advice throughout the application procedure.

Are there any plans to look at expanding the criteria to include those applicants seeking ministerial intervention in particular, or any other area?

*Answer:*

The purpose of the Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS) is to provide application assistance at primary decision and merits review stages to people in immigration detention, who wish to apply for Protection in Australia, and to the most disadvantaged people in the community who need immigration advice and application assistance.

Increased funding in the Budget for the IAAAS with the roll-out of the Community Care Pilot into a national Community Assistance Support Program in 2009-10 will permit more people in the community to benefit from publicly funded access to professional and independent immigration advice and application assistance.