QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27 MAY 2010

IMMIGRATIN AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(128) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

(1) What are facial identification techniques and for what purpose is the government training Indonesian immigration officials to employ them?

(2) What training is the Australian government providing to Indonesian immigration officials to identify individuals with protection needs, and to prevent returning or unlawfully detaining individuals with such needs (such as refugees)?

Answer:

(1) Facial comparison techniques involve a morphological analysis (facial mapping), comparing shape, form and position of facial features to confirm whether a facial image is of a particular person. The six primary features used for analysis include ears, eyes, nose, mouth, face shape and facial marks. DIAC is delivering *"Facial image comparison: principles & application"* training to Indonesian officials through an interactive course that gives students detailed information on the techniques to be employed for the comparison of faces, photo to photo and/or photo to person.

This training is being delivered as part of a program to develop biometric capacity in Indonesia and aims to develop Indonesia's counter-terrorism and law enforcement capacity and its capacity to combat people smuggling.

(2) Under a directive issued by the Indonesian Immigration service, all officers are instructed to: refer people who raise an asylum concern to UNHCR; ensure that people who are undergoing a refugee status determination process through UNHCR or have been given refugee status by UNHCR are not returned to their country of origin; respect the rights of asylum seekers while in Indonesia who are registered with UNHCR.