

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0184) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (L&CA 49) asked:

How many officers travelled to East Timor to continue the discussions since the February 2011 estimates until the date that the government announced it did not intend to pursue this option?

Answer:

No officers from the Department travelled to East Timor for this purpose between the February 2011 Estimates hearings and 10 May 2011. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade advises that Australia's Ambassador and other Embassy officials continued to discuss the proposal with senior East Timorese government interlocutors. Discussions also took place between senior Australian and East Timorese ministers during this time.