

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 24 MAY 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE11/0594) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash asked:

Will any punitive action be taken against those who have lied on their applications?

*Answer:*

Where the Department considers that a person claiming to be a minor is an adult, the client is provided with an opportunity to comment on the Department's views and provide further information in support of their age-related claims. Once the Department has found that a person claiming to be a minor is an adult, they are treated as an adult for detention purposes from that date. If they admit they provided incorrect information regarding their age on their application for refugee status, they will also be asked to explain why they provided false or incorrect information. There are many reasons why a person may have provided false or incorrect information, including that they do not know the correct information. Decisions about what action to take in response to the provision of false or incorrect information are made on a case-by-case basis.