

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23-24 MAY 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE11/0641) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash asked:

Will Australian officers and others who have been in contact with those who have not been cleared for TB now undergo health checks to determine that they have not contracted TB?

*Answer:*

All these clients were free of respiratory symptoms. As pulmonary TB is spread by coughing exposure over an extended period of time (more than eight hours), and all clients were subsequently medically cleared, there is no medical need for staff to undergo health checks to determine if they have contracted TB.