

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23-24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/642) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

With reference to comments by the Immigration Department who said in relation to these asylum seekers that it has received advice that they are a minimal risk to public health. What is the definition of a minimal risk to public health?

Answer:

The Department's Chief Medical Officer's advice to departmental officers is that the term "minimal risk", in these circumstances, means almost no risk to public health.