

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21- 22 MAY 2012**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE12/0183) Program 4.1: Visa compliance and status resolution**

Senator Cash (L&CA 59) asked:

In an article published on 14 May 2012 a woman claimed her husband, John Musas Chibang, married her solely for the purpose of gaining a visa and that he remained in the marital home for only 10 weeks before absconding. She also claims that Mr Chibang is still receiving Centrelink benefits and remains in the country. Is the department investigating that allegation?

*Answer:*

The Department has investigated the claims made in the article by Mr Chibang's former spouse in relation to his immigration status in Australia and his receipt of Centrelink benefits. Privacy considerations prevent the Department from disclosing details relating to the case.