

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0563) PROGRAM –

Senator Rhiannon (Written) asked:

In May 2013 Senate Estimates Ms Larkins from DIAC told Senator Rhiannon that DIAC is aware of three cases of returned asylum seekers from Australia being mistreated in Sri Lanka since 2009. In May 2013 Senate Estimates Ms Rawson from DFAT told Senator Rhiannon there were four allegations of such mistreatment since 2010. (a) Is DIAC aware of those 4 cases since 2010? Please provide details. (b) Can you please clarify how many allegations of mistreatment of asylum seekers refouled from Australia DIAC is aware of, including those returned to Sri Lanka? (c) Please provide any details, including any resolutions to those allegations.

Answer:

- a) Yes. The Department is aware of four allegations of mistreatment in Sri Lanka since 2010.
- b) Australia does not return people who engage our international obligations. No one has been refouled.
- c) The four allegations have been followed up and found to be unsubstantiated. Due to privacy reasons the Department is unable to provide more details.