

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(238) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Cash asked:

Can the Department confirm what agreements have previously been in place to support repatriation to another country in the past and whether these agreements are still current?

*Answer:*

Agreements have been in place between Australia and a range of partner governments around repatriation, returns and readmission. While some arrangements, such as the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Australia, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on migration and humanitarian cooperation, include third parties and are in the public domain, the Department is not able to disclose information contained in confidential bilateral memoranda of understanding.

A number of agreements have lapsed under fixed terms contained within them, or are now inactive due to changed circumstances. Others include the option to extend their application at regular intervals or have no prescribed end date.