

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011**

**IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

**(SE11/0210) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Cash asked:

Following the High Court decision in relation to the Government's Malaysia Agreement, has the Prime Minister or the Minister made any representations to the Government of PNG in relation to a proposed regional processing centre on PNG? If yes, what were they and when were they made?

*Answer:*

The Australian Government informed the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) of the likely implications of the High Court decision in a timely fashion. Numerous conversations - at various levels - canvassed the impacts of the decision, as well as the refusal of the Parliament to pass legislation needed to allow a processing centre on PNG to go ahead. The detail of such diplomatic discussions with foreign governments is not routinely disclosed.