

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(SE11/0284) Program 4.3:** Offshore asylum seeker management

Senator Cash (L&CA 14) asked:

When did the Department provide information to the Government on the costs and implications of being unable to get the Malaysian Solution through Parliament and the new process of onshore processing, and

- a) when was that information asked for;
- b) when did that briefing occur;
- c) how many briefings have there been in relation to the cost implications of the failed Malaysian Solution;
- d) who attended the briefings that you have referred to.

*Answer:*

The implications of not proceeding with the Malaysia Arrangement were known to the Government prior to the High Court's decision on 31 August 2011. In the period immediately following the High Court decision, a number of senior DIAC officials met a number of times with the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship to discuss a range of related policy matters.

The discussions included the potential costs and implications of assessing the asylum claims of irregular maritime arrivals in Australia. The content and timing of such briefings are subject to Cabinet confidentiality.

Updated Whole of Government cost estimates were provided as part of Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook. Updated DIAC specific information will be made available as part of the 2011-12 Additional Estimates Process.