

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(SE12/0577) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Cocos (Keeling) Islands: What provision is made for security checks of IMAs on Cocos and Keeling Islands?

*Answer:*

The department has a small contingent of officers, as well as health and detention service provider personnel and interpreters on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to assist in the management of irregular maritime arrivals (IMAs). The department's detention service provider conducts an initial security risk assessment for each IMA in order to facilitate their transfer to Christmas Island, generally within 72 hours of their arrival on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.