

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE – LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

**INQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIA'S AGREEMENT WITH MALAYSIA IN RELATION TO
ASYLUM SEEKERS: 23 SEPTEMBER 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(QON 3)

Senator Cash (L&CA 36) asked:

Could you take on notice to confirm that that is the exact position: the Malaysian government did not express an opinion (i.e. re when the Australian government should announce the proposed transfer arrangement with them, given that the Australian government made the announcement prior to details being negotiated).

Answer:

The Department is not aware of any opinion expressed by the Malaysian government to it regarding when the Australian government should announce the proposed transfer arrangement. The announcement on 7 May 2011 was a joint announcement by the Prime Ministers of Australia and Malaysia.