

**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 31)**

Senator Cash asked (in writing):

[Regarding onshore processing] In the Department's submission at clause 17 it states that "A return to onshore processing would likely result in increased and sustained levels of IMA's". Upon what basis is this claim made?

*Answer:*

Current rates of irregular maritime arrivals are about half last year's arrival rate. The people smuggling business model relies on marketing certainty of asylum processing and resettlement in Australia. Implementation of the Malaysia Arrangement removes this certainty, disrupting the business model.

A return to onshore processing sends a signal to people smugglers and potential irregular immigrants of the return to certainty of outcomes. In 2010 the rate of arrival was up to about 600 IMAs per month.