

**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 11)

Senator Cash (L&CA 38) asked:

Regarding legal advice on the coalition's proposed amendments, could you take on notice to confirm (a) whether or not there was anything in writing; (b) with whom those informal discussions did occur; (c) when those informal discussions were held?

Answer:

Informal discussions on the Coalition's proposed amendments to the Migration Legislation Amendment (Offshore Processing and other Measures) Bill 2011 and the David Bennett advice took place between the department's Principal Advisor Border and Humanitarian Strategies, and Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) Special Counsel on 20 September 2011. Brief written advice was received from AGS Special Counsel on 22 September 2011.