

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 February 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(32) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Ludwig (L&C 55) asked:

“What I am concerned about is that it seems that these concerns were raised with the department of immigration over a range of years. Is that correct?”

Answer:

The Ombudsman has a range of formal and informal mechanisms available under the *Ombudsman Act 1976* in which to report on the Department’s actions and progress against his recommended solutions. These include:

- Formal reports such as Own Motion and reports in response to individual complaints;
- Informal quarterly reports;
- Annual reports; and
- Other Special Reports to the Secretary, Parliament or the Prime Minister.

We note that at the Additional Budget Estimates hearing on 13 February 2006, the Ombudsman was asked a similar question by the Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee (F&PA). Senator Evans asked “Are you able to make those quarterly reports available now?” of the Ombudsman and the Department draws your attention to his response “I am quite happy to go back and look at what is in the reports. In principle, I cannot see any problem with that.” Senator Evans further asked “...If you could take that on notice and provide them that would be great.” The Ombudsman agreed to take the request on notice and provide the quarterly reports to the F&PA Committee. The Department is cooperating with the Ombudsman's office in the provision of these documents to the Committee, which will provide an indication, in part, of the issues raised with the Department by the Ombudsman.