

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 February 2006**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

**(4) Output 1.1: Non-Humanitarian Entry and Stay**

Senator Stott Despoja asked:

Why does the Australian Government refuse Indigenous Papuans from Indonesia from applying for visas to Australia from Australian Embassy in Papua New Guinea when other Indonesian and International visitors to Papua New Guinea are able to apply for Australian visas?

*Answer:*

The Australian High Commission in Port Moresby accepts all visa applications that meet the legislative requirements to be a valid application, irrespective of the nationality of the applicant seeking a visa to travel to Australia.

All valid applications are assessed on their individual merits, against the legal criteria for a visa as set out in the Migration Act and Regulations. Where an applicant satisfies all the legal criteria a visa is granted. If an applicant does not satisfy all the legal criteria for the visa, the application must be refused.