

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 FEBRUARY 2008**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

### **(64) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay**

Senator Ellison asked:

Will the government be recommitting to the United Nations Convention on Refugees which opposes forcible deportations?

*Answer:*

Australia ratified the *1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* in 1954, and the *1967 Protocol* in 1973. This treaty will remain binding upon Australia indefinitely unless Australia withdraws from the Refugees Convention in accordance with Article 44. There is no need, and no provision within the treaty, for a State Party to recommit.

Australia's core obligation under the treaty is to refrain from *refoulement* (removal) of a refugee to a territory where his/her life or freedom would be threatened for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion. Australia does not *refoule* refugees.