

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(14) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Humphries (L&CA 47) asked:

On what date precisely did the department first become involved with the passengers on board the *Oceanic Viking*?

*Answer:*

On 29 October 2009 a video conference was held between two passenger representatives and Australian Government Officials. On 1 November 2009 four departmental officers boarded the vessel to begin face-to-face discussions with the passengers.