

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

### **(73) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

#### Christmas Island

- (1) Are the interpreters on the island accredited by NAATI or only recognised?
- (2) How many interpreters are NAATI accredited in Hazaragi?
- (3) How often are interpreters given days off for rest and recovery?

*Answer:*

(1) Interpreters supporting operations on Christmas Island are selected on the basis of their National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) credentials, work experience and availability.

Whether credentialed interpreters on Christmas Island are accredited or recognised depends on the language. (In some new and emerging languages NAATI offers a recognition credential only.)

(2) As at 22 February 2010:

- Five interpreters hold NAATI Paraprofessional accreditation in Hazaragi; and
- An additional 20 hold NAATI Recognition in Hazaragi.

A NAATI accreditation test was established in July 2009 for Hazaragi as a result of the demand for this language. Prior to this, only NAATI recognition status was available in Hazaragi.

(3) Interpreters are scheduled for a rest and recovery day at least once a week. If operational demand is low, interpreters may be given an additional day off. In instances where operational demand is high, interpreters may work up to 10 days before they can be rested, but this only occurs in exceptional circumstances rather than being normal practice.