

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(AE12/0037) Program: Internal Product**

Senator Cash asked:

Which Officers within the Department of Immigration and Citizenship are authorised to provide Departmental material, briefings, whether written or oral, or comment to assist in the publication of media articles?

*Answer:*

The National Communications Manager is the department's official spokesman for all on-air/on-camera media requests. Other departmental officers may also fill this role from time to time in consultation with the National Communications Manager. Staff below Senior Executive Service (SES) level must direct any media requests made to them immediately to National Communications Branch in Canberra.

SES officers can exercise judgement on whether they respond to media enquiries. Requests for briefings, radio or television interviews must be discussed with the National Communications Branch. SES should be prepared to participate in such briefings and interviews, as required.

Normally staff below the SES level (other than National Communications Branch staff) would not be required to participate.