

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0490) Program: Internal Product

Senator Cash (L&CA 66) asked:

In relation to the statement that Minister Bowen made on Thursday 1 December that he would like to see the refugee intake increase to 20,000 refugees per year, one of the other statements that the minister made was that it would be fiscally irresponsible to increase the refugee intake at the same time as having all the costs and expenses that go with a high level of boat arrivals. What was the minister's statement based on? Would he have had advice from the department?

Answer:

The Department cannot comment on policy matters. Questions regarding the Minister's statements should be directed to the Minister.