

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(AE13/0054) PROGRAM – 3.1: Border Management**

Senator Pratt (L&CA 60) asked:

Provide information about the limited pilot project involving biometrics that came out of the sixth Malaysia-Australia immigration cooperation working group meeting that took place in December 2012. How will the results of this project inform future bilateral discussions?

*Answer:*

The limited biometrics pilot project involves DIAC sending the fingerprints of selected Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) to Malaysia for checking against Malaysian Immigration fingerprint records. The purpose of the trial is to test the viability of such a data exchange. The trial will be limited to IMAs who have not presented adequate identity documents and who are believed to have transited Malaysia on the way to Australia.