

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(AE13/0280) PROGRAM – 1.1: Visa and Migration**

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

What is the progress of the roll out of biometric collection for visa applicants? Has there been any expansion of the program? What were the results? Is any further roll out planned?

*Answer:*

Phase One of the Offshore Biometrics Program (the Program) rolled out biometric collection to visa applicants in Bahrain, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Zimbabwe. In December 2012 the Program was expanded to include Pakistan and Cambodia. The expansion was successful with biometrics now included as part of visa processing in both of those countries. Projects are currently underway to implement biometric collection in Nigeria and Egypt in mid-2013.