

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014**

**IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

**(AE14/037) PROGRAMME – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Singh (L&CA 54) asked:

Senator SINGH: Therein lies the problem. Because of the laws in PNG making homosexuality an offence, asylum seekers are changing their claims in an attempt to hide their sexuality in fear of being persecuted. So not only are they fleeing persecution, they are in fear of being persecuted again in PNG unless they change their claims. Therein lies the issue.

Then we have one of the department's senior officials telling staff to inform the PNG police if there are any detainees that they are aware of that are of same-sex orientation.

Mr Bowles: As I said, I am happy to take that on notice.

*Answer:*

The department refutes the allegation regarding the senior official advising staff to inform the PNG police of suspected same-sex relationships.