

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### (AE14/504) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

Was the minister on leave at any point during the Christmas break (between the last sitting of parliament in 2013 and the first sitting in 2014)? If so:

- a. Please table a schedule of the ministers leave. Please include:
  - i. The dates the minister was on leave.
  - ii. The dates the minister was out of the country (if applicable).
- b. Who was acting in the minister's place?
  - i. What date was it decided to have this person act in the minister's place?
  - ii. What was the process for selecting this person?
  - iii. Who was involved in making this decision?
- c. Were there any matters with which the department needed to make contact with the minister during this time? If so:
  - i. Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred
  - ii. Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the minister and the department during this time.
  - iii. Were there any times that the department was aware that it would be unable to communicate with the minister?
  - iv. Were there any times that the department tried to contact the minister but were unable?
- d. Were there any matters with which the department needed to make contact with the acting minister during this time? If so:
  - i. Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred
  - ii. Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the acting minister and the department during this time.
  - iii. Were there any times that the department was aware that it would be unable to communicate with the acting minister?
  - iv. Were there any times that the department tried to contact the acting minister but were unable?
  - v. but were unable?
- e. Did the department contact the Minister or acting minister during this time? If so:
  - i. Please provide a list of these matters and the date they occurred
  - ii. Please provide a copy of any correspondence, emails, notes etc between the minister and or acting minister and the department during this time.

*Answer:*

	Minister Morrison	Assistant Minister Cash
Dates the minister was on leave	30/12/2013 – 12/01/2014	01/01/2014 – 14/01/2014
Dates the minister was out of the country	Not applicable	01/01/2014 – 13/01/2014
Who was acting in the minister's place	The Hon Julie Bishop MP	The Hon Julie Bishop MP
Date was it decided to have this person act in the minister's place	5/11/2013	8/11/2013
What was the process for selecting this person	Availability of Cabinet level Ministers	Availability of Cabinet level Ministers
Who was involved in making this decision	Offices of the Ministers	Offices of the Ministers

During the period of absence, all contact from the portfolio was directed to the Minister's office staff.