

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(146) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Nettle (L&C 146) asked:

In relation to the other person on Christmas Island who arrived at the beginning of April, how is their case being handled – in which category, whether they are onshore or an offshore – how they arrived, when they arrived and where the case is up to?

Answer:

The person concerned arrived at Boigu Island in Torres Strait on 17 March 2006 claiming protection from Australia under the Refugees Convention. As Boigu Island has been excised from Australia's Migration Zone, the person was detained under Section 189 of the Migration Act and processed on Christmas Island as an offshore entry person. A DIMA case manager has conducted an interview and as at 20 June 2006 was awaiting the completion of standard checks including a number from foreign agencies, before making a decision on the claims for protection.