

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 May 2007

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(75) Output 1.3: Border Security

Senator McLucas (L&CA 98) asked:

(1) Why isn't DIAC providing legal representation to the families of the Malu Sara victims who drowned?

(2) Was legal representation ever offered?

Answer:

(1) Legal aid is provided through the legal aid commissions in each State and Territory.

None of the families of the Malu Sara victims have sought funding from the department for their legal representation. We understand, however, that a number of the families have sought and obtained assistance with their legal representation from Legal Aid Queensland.

(2) No.