

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21 May 2007

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(76) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator McLucas (L&CA 99) asked:

(1) On which island was the Memorial service held?

(2) Provide a list of the invitees to the memorial service and an explanation of how the Department came to that list of people.

(3) Provide an explanation of your involvement as a department with the service as it was held.

Answer:

(1)–(3) In the 3 months following the loss of the Malu Sara, memorial services were held for each of Wilfred Baira, Ted Harry and Valeri Saub and a funeral was held for Flora Enosa whose body was found by Indonesian fisherman and subsequently repatriated from Indonesia. At the request of the family a service was not held for the child, Ethena Enosa. Each service was organised and conducted by the families and local communities. DIAC supported each service by way of financial contributions towards catering and transportation of certain family members who lived away from the Torres Strait, including making provision for the travel and grant of Special Purpose Visas for family of Valeri Saub who lived in Western Province of Papua New Guinea.

On the first anniversary of the loss of the Malu Sara in October 2006, DIAC hosted a memorial service for the two staff members who were lost - Wilfred Baira and Ted Harry. This service was held on Thursday Island and was for staff who worked with Wilfred and Ted in the Torres Strait, including Thursday Island office staff and the network of movement monitoring officers. Representatives from the TSRA and other agencies, e.g. ACS, AQIS, AFP and Queensland Police were invited to attend this service in recognition of the co-operative working arrangement which exist between agencies in the Straits. Family members of the deceased were not invited to attend this particular service as they had held private services previously.