

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 26 MAY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(50) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Hanson-Young (L&C 92) asked:

Could you please inform us as to whether human rights standards and the protection of human rights are actually referenced in the agreement with IOM?

Answer:

The July 2000 exchange of letters ('the agreement') between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), in relation to the provision of services to support the cooperative efforts of the Governments of Indonesia and Australia in combating people smuggling and irregular migration through Indonesia, is confidential between parties.

Article 1(c) of IOM's Constitution states that IOM will "provide migration services and other assistance as in accord with the aims of the Organization". IOM's Mission and strategic focus affirm that the organization aims "to enhance the humane and orderly management of migration and the effective respect for the human rights of migrants in accordance with international law". IOM states that although it has no legal protection mandate its activities contribute to protecting human rights, having the effect, or consequence, of protecting persons involved in migration.