

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 27 MAY 2010**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(91) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Humphries (L&C 61) asked:

Is it not true that under the previous government detainees who had been rejected were not transferred to the mainland except for things such as medical emergencies? When their claims had been rejected they were then removed off the island; they were not housed on the mainland before they were sent home.

Answer:

Offshore Entry Persons who were processed on Nauru, Manus or Christmas Island under the previous government were brought to the mainland for many reasons including to facilitate prosecution of people smuggling offences or for medical reasons.

The Department's data pertaining to returns and removals does not identify the location from where a person is removed. Therefore we are unable to verify removal arrangement for clients under the previous government.