

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23 MAY 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE11/0156) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Cash (L&CA 99) asked:

In relation to PNG, you say that 14 March was when the first substantial discussions were had, but how far back do the insubstantial discussions date?

*Answer:*

In the context of diplomatic discussions between Papua New Guinea and Australia, the topic of Papua New Guinea hosting a refugee assessment centre has been raised over the past several months. The topic has been raised in the context of general discussions about the Australia/Papua New Guinea immigration relationship.