

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE11/0190) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Cash (L&CA Written) asked:

What is the total value of funding provided by the Australian Government as part of any regional, bilateral or other arrangements to Malaysia and Indonesia to improve the sophistication of border clearance procedures and technology specifically in relation to:

- A. the installation of forgery detection technology at primary clearance points, with specific reference to airports
- B. the installation of biometric identification technology at primary clearance points, with specific reference to airports, and
- C. the training of immigration and border officers in detecting document fraud?

*Answer:*

The Australian Government does not provide funding to Malaysia and Indonesia for these activities. The Government provides technical assistance to these countries through the provision of training and capacity building activities. Under the Regional Skills Development Program, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) provides training to immigration officials on document examination, intelligence, facial recognition and investigation.

DIAC has also supported the installation of Indonesia's border management system which has delivered sophisticated border management systems to 30 ports in Indonesia to enable reliable detection of people of concern to Indonesian authorities. This work includes the installation of biometric technology. DIAC has been working with Indonesia since 2006 on this project.

In 2010–11, DIAC and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service provided the Immigration Department of Malaysia with document examination equipment that is being used on a daily basis at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport.