

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23 MAY 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE11/0240) Program 3.1: Border Management**

Senator Barnett (L&CA 121) asked:

In relation to the movement of people in the Torres Strait, how many are entering Australia with health concerns?

*Answer:*

DIAC monitors the arrival of PNG nationals under the Torres Strait Treaty into the Protected Zone in the Torres Strait who travel for traditional purposes and can answer this question to the extent that health issues are apparent or declared at entry.

In accordance with the treaty, travel for health treatment is not defined as a traditional purpose and those identified as arriving specifically for health treatment are refused immigration clearance and required to depart as soon as practicable.

For the period 1 July 2010 to June 30 2011 a total of 1032 PNG nationals were refused immigration clearance in the Torres Strait on this basis.