

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 24 MAY 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE11/0453) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash asked:

Is the Government considering releasing any of the asylum seekers currently detained into the community pending resolution of the accommodation crisis?

*Answer:*

Community detention is not used as a means to respond to fluctuations in detention accommodation capacity. It is one of a number of placement options for people who are in immigration detention.

The Government is committed to using community detention as an appropriate detention placement for children and other vulnerable individuals, when the Minister considers it to be in the public interest to do so.