

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE11/0492) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution**

Senator Cash asked:

Has advice been provided to the Minister or requested by the Minister regarding general conduct for action under the character test and action under section 501 by the Minister in relation to the Villawood rooftop protest?

*Answer:*

On 4 July 2011, the Migration Amendment (Strengthening the Character Test and other Provisions) Bill 2011 was passed in the Senate and it received Royal Assent becoming law on 25 July 2011.

It provides that detainees convicted of any criminal offence whilst in immigration detention will not pass the character test and as such may have their visa application refused under the character provisions of the Act.