

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23-24 MAY 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE11/623) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash asked:

With reference to the incident where immigration officials were forced to take asylum-seekers off a flight from Christmas Island to the mainland after the charter pilot expressed concern some had not passed health checks. How many asylum seekers were on the flight?

*Answer:*

Eighty-two asylum seekers were on the flight, not including the 12 that were taken off the plane prior to departure. Please note the number of asylum seekers on the flight was 82, not 92.