

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE11/0695) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash asked:

In relation to an article in *The Australian* newspaper dated 23 May that reported on two asylum seekers facing charges over attacks on guards on Christmas Island, who was the departmental spokesperson referred to in the article?

*Answer:*

The media team's duty public affairs officer on the weekend of 21-22 May, 2011 was the departmental spokesperson referred to in the article. Duty public affairs officers being quoted as departmental spokesmen/women is standard practice for the department's 24/7 media response service.