

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 24 MAY 2011**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(BE11/0747) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash (L&CA 131) asked:

In relation to Western Australia settlement services, earlier this year there were reports of local parishioners in Perth in Western Australia being asked to allow the department to use rooms and their homes to house people recently released into the community. Were you aware of those reports?

*Answer:*

If this question relates to the community detention program, the Department has not asked private individuals to provide rooms or houses for community detention.

Community meetings were held in a number of capital cities in late 2010 and early 2011 to discuss the expansion of the community detention program.

During the meeting in Perth offers were made for the use of a house for the community detention program. The details were taken and provided to the Red Cross for consideration. The Department understands this offer was not taken up.