

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012**

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

#### **(BE12/0311) Program : 3.1 Border Management**

Senator Cash (L&CA 61) asked:

In the article dated 14 April 2012, in the Courier Mail. It was alleged that a gentleman by the name of Mr Chetan Mashru has offered to arrange sham marriages for applicants from India. In relation to those allegations, the Migration Agents Registration Authority said that it had taken action against 11 agents this year and had barred three of them. Is the department aware of the allegations against Mr Mashru and will it be launching an investigation? Have those allegations been investigated? What has happened to the individuals involved in the sham marriages? Has anybody's visa been cancelled? Has Mr Mashru's visa been cancelled? If so, on what grounds; if not, why not?

*Answer:*

The department has an investigation on foot in relation to the matters raised in the media report dated 14 April 2012.

As the investigation is ongoing it would not be appropriate for the department to comment on specific details.