

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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

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

#### **(BE12/0314) Program 3.1: Border Management**

Senator Cash (L&CA written) asked:

I refer to a report in the Daily Telegraph on 23 November 2010 that refers to a report provided to the Minister by the Department noting that it warned the government three months after it came to power that the closure of the Nauru detention centre would cause a jump in people smuggling. The same report quotes the Minister saying: "It is important to note this advice was in no way definitive and suggested the possibility of increased people smuggling efforts as a consequence of a range of issues". It also reports the Minister as saying that government had not been advised when it took office in December in 2007 that its promise to close Nauru was likely to increase people smuggling.

1. Is this report correct?
2. Please confirm the Minister's quoted statement?

*Answer:*

With regard to the report of 23 November 2010, regarding the statement on the closure of the Nauru detention centre, the full statement is "while a range of risk mitigation strategies have prevented significant boat arrivals in recent years, current intelligence on issues including the closure of Nauru suggest the possibility of increased people smuggling efforts."

The statement quoted was released under a Freedom of Information request as one small part of a submission dated 25 February 2008 to then Minister Chris Evans.

Minister Bowen's statements are accurate.