

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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

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

#### **BE12/0452 Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Cash asked:

I refer to a report in the Australian Newspaper dated 23 November 2010, that the Department informed the Minister for Immigration on 25 February 2008 that: "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." 1. What action was taken by the department on the basis of that intelligence? 2. Did the Department subsequently advise the Minister not to close Nauru or abolish temporary protection visas? 3. Did the department provide any advice to the government not to unwind the successful policies of the Coalition Government? 4. Was the department concerned that the government's softening of policies after the first 5,000 arrivals was not working? The first 10,000? The first 15,000 arrivals? If not, why not?

*Answer:*

See the responses provided to Questions BE12/0292 and BE12/0314.