

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0118) PROGRAM – 3.1: Border Management

Senator Marshall (L&CA 46) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Can I go to the question of minors. Are minors given the screening-in, screening-out interview? [...]

Mr Bowles: If there were an unaccompanied minor aged six they would fit the vulnerability criteria. Generally speaking, younger children come in family groups—so the mother and father would be interviewed, for instance, and the—

Senator MARSHALL: Just tell me: what is the age cut-off that you apply this process to?

Ms Larkins: We will get that.

Answer:

Minors, including unaccompanied minors, may be subject to enhanced screening. The Department considers whether a person is suitable for enhanced screening on a case-by-case basis and takes into consideration personal characteristics including vulnerabilities such as physical and mental disability, age and maturity. Information regarding vulnerabilities is included in the Enhanced Screening Policy Guidelines.