

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**SUPPELMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(315) Output: Refugee Review Tribunal**

Senator Nettle (L&C 11) asked:

Is the RRT aware of any circumstances where the video links have not worked, for whatever reason, and the hearing has not been adjourned?

*Answer:*

The RRT is not aware of a case where the video link has failed and the hearing has been prematurely concluded without completing the taking of evidence. There have been occasions where the video link has dropped out during a hearing but it has either been restored before the hearing recommenced or a further hearing has been arranged.

Section 429A of the Act provides:

For the purposes of the review of a decision, the Tribunal may allow the appearance by the applicant before the Tribunal, or the giving of evidence by the applicant or any other person, to be by:

- (a) telephone; or
- (b) closed-circuit television; or
- (c) any other means of communication.

If necessary, the Tribunal could continue with a hearing disrupted by video link failure, provided the applicant could be contacted by telephone. However, the standard practice is that, should the equipment fail for any reason, the hearing is adjourned and resumed when the link has been re-established.