

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(36) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay**

Senator Bartlett (L&C 63) asked:

I presume we do not have anything to do with the running of the no-interest loan scheme that has been set up through IOM – that is totally up to IOM – but have you got any information about the uptake of that and how that has been played out?

*Answer:*

- The Government injection of funds to expand IOM's no-interest loan scheme only took effect at the end of the last financial year. IOM advise that in the five month period from June to October 2005 (the revised scheme commenced in June 2005) they received a total of 88 applications for loans representing some 423 persons. In the previous five months IOM received 70 applications representing 355 persons.
- IOM is to provide its first six monthly report in January 2006, which will give a clearer picture of the uptake of the scheme.
- IOM reports that it is receiving many enquiries about its scheme. It has been actively promoting the scheme at public meetings held in NSW, Victoria and Queensland with further meetings planned for South Australia and Western Australia.
- IOM has also established a Community Advisory Group comprising representatives from other community based loan schemes, Migrant Resource Centres and the Refugee Council of Australia to advise them on the operation and promotion of the scheme. The Group has met twice since the scheme commenced.