

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(173) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Nettle (L&CA 90) asked:

In relation to the most recent unauthorised boat arrivals, have they been offered the opportunity to receive legal advice, whether through IAAAS or any other procedure?

Answer:

As persons who have arrived at an excised offshore place, the recent (October 2006) unauthorised arrivals currently in detention on Christmas Island are not entitled to assistance under the IAAAS (Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme). IAAAS migration agent services have not been offered. However, immediately upon making requests to the Department for legal advice, arrangements were made for the clients to contact a solicitor.