

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 OCTOBER 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(72) Output 1.5: Detention

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

- (1) What happens to the detention debt when a former detainee is provided with a permanent visa? Is this waived?
- (2) When a former detainee has already paid the detention debt back to the Department, are they reimbursed if they have obtained a permanent visa?

Answer:

(1) The granting of a permanent visa (non-humanitarian-related) does not extinguish the detention debt owed by a detainee and normal debt recovery processes apply.

If, however, a **humanitarian visa** is granted, then the detention debt would **not** be pursued by DIAC.

Anyone can apply for a waiver of a debt to the Commonwealth.

Waiver of debts to the Commonwealth can only be determined by the Finance Ministers delegate under ss34 (1) of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

(2) No.