

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(25) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Hanson-Young (L&C 61) asked:

In terms of the types of detention and the treatment of refugees in both Malaysia and Indonesia what are the protocols surrounding children?

*Answer:*

#### Indonesia

Detention arrangements in Indonesia are a matter for the Indonesian Government. The Department has been advised that asylum seekers in Indonesia are only placed in immigration detention facilities if they are suspected of having broken Indonesian laws, including seeking to enter or depart illegally. Most asylum seekers in Indonesia are accommodated in the community. Women and children are not generally kept in detention. However, the Indonesian Government is responsible for decisions on individual cases.

It has been the policy of successive Australian governments to work with the Indonesian Government to improve both the quality of detention centres and the management of immigration detention. We will continue to work with the Indonesian Government to improve Indonesian detention facilities, staffing and operations.

#### Malaysia

Detention arrangements in Malaysia are a matter for the Malaysian Government. The Department has been advised that Malaysia's policy is to keep children (persons under the age of 12) in immigration detention under the supervision of a responsible adult, usually a parent.