

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(163) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration**

Senator Cash asked:

- (1) Is the Minister / Department aware of any registered migration agents providing the use of their Agent Registration Number to unregistered or unauthorised persons?
- (2) If yes, please provide particulars of each circumstance?
- (3) What action if any was taken by the Department in respect to these matters?

*Answer:*

(1)-(3) The Department is not able to report on all instances where a registered migration agent has provided their Migration Agents Registration Number (MARN) to unregistered individuals, however, the Department does not believe this to be a regular practice.

In instances where this has come to the Department's attention, these allegations usually involve an unregistered individual providing immigration assistance themselves whilst working with a registered migration agent (for example as an employee; employer; or colleague). Under these circumstances, the Department has written:

1. a warning letter about the provision of immigration assistance whilst unregistered to the unregistered individual(s) with a courtesy copy to the registered migration agent; and
2. a warning to the registered migration agent reminding them of their responsibilities as an agent to properly supervise their staff with a courtesy copy to the Office of the MARA.

Both warning letters provide an opportunity to ensure the individuals concerned are aware of their responsibilities, and provide a base for investigation and possible action, if further allegations are provided.