

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0017) Program: Internal Product

Senator Hanson-Young (L&CA 45) asked:

How many requests for media access has the Department received in the past six months? Of these, how many were approved?

Answer:

- In the past six months the department has facilitated media access to detention facilities on 19 occasions. In addition, the department's systems show a further 15 requests for media access which were declined. Before the department's new media access policy went live on the department's website on 21 October 2011, requests were assessed on a case-by-case basis. Often the journalist was referred to the protocol for detention visits on the department's website. It was incumbent on journalists to satisfy these criteria should they wish to visit in their capacity as a member of the general public.