

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0670) PROGRAM – 4.5: Regional Cooperation and Associated Activities

Senator Cash (L&CA 113) asked:

Provide the committee with the date when the high commission briefed the Malaysian government on the Houston reports, or the expert panel recommendations, and if there has been any other correspondence or contact at all with the Malaysian government or officials since the release of the Houston report?

Answer:

On 13 August 2012, the Australian High Commission in Malaysia wrote to Prime Minister Najib's office, the Minister of Home Affairs and the Foreign Minister, alerting them to the Expert Panel's report and recommendations.

On 14 August 2012, the High Commission provided Prime Minister Najib's office, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with transcripts from the 13 August 2012 press conference by Prime Minister Gillard and Minister for Immigration and Citizenship.

On 4 September 2012, the Australian High Commissioner, Mr Miles Kupa, briefed Minister Dato Seri Mohamed Nazri in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Parliamentary Affairs), on the Expert Panel's recommendations and the Government's response.

On 14 September 2012, the High Commission briefed the office of the Minister of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs on the implementation of regional processing and the initial transfer of irregular maritime arrivals to Nauru and provided copies of Minister Bowen's media releases.