

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(SE12/0048) PROGRAM – Internal Product**

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Systems for people (IT platform): What happens to passenger cards that are completed by all persons entering Australia? Where does data mined from those cards go? How long are the cards kept and where are they kept?

*Answer:*

Incoming (and Outgoing) Passenger Cards completed by all persons entering (or departing) Australia are collected and batched according to vessel number.

Passenger Cards are collected from international ports by the DIAC external service provider and transported to their facility in Canberra, ACT. The Passenger Cards are then scanned to obtain images of both sides of the card.

The data mined from these Passenger Cards is held in two places:

- 1) The scanned image is stored on the web based *Passenger Card Image System (PCIS)*.
- 2) The data from the completed Passenger Cards is captured and stored in the *Passenger Card Imaging System (PI)* located on DIAC's Mainframe.

After being scanned and stored in PCIS, Passenger Cards are maintained by the external service provider, onsite in Canberra, ACT for a period of between six and ten weeks. They are destroyed after this time on the authorisation of DIAC.