



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **THE HON RICHARD MARLES MP SHADOW MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION MEMBER FOR CORIO**

#### **DUTTON HAS SERIOUS QUESTIONS TO ANSWER**

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton has serious questions to answer about why he has today refused to confirm or rule out whether the Abbott Government gave cash to people smugglers.

This is a clear switch from the response he provided earlier this week, where he told a Sydney radio station "no" when asked if there was any substantiation in the claims of payments.

Why is the immigration minister giving two completely different answers just days apart?

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop also directly denied cash was being paid to people smugglers.

Today, under increasing pressure to come clean on whether Australian tax payer money is being handed to people smugglers, Peter Dutton said he would not comment on 'operational matters'.

Mr Dutton is either lying or incompetent.

This is taxpayers money and they have the right to know if it's being used to pay criminal people smugglers.

**SUNDAY, 14 JUNE 2015**