

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2010-11 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross

Question No: 080

Topic: Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Abetz asked:

Please list all government assistance that both groups qualify for, including (a) housing and (b) social security.

Answer:

See Attachment A.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Assistance/Benefit	Refugees	Asylum Seekers
Access to all social security payments and family assistance (FaHCSIA and DEEWR)	√	X
Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing assistance under the framework of the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) (State and Territory Governments) - National Rental Affordability Scheme (SEWPAC) 	√ (Dependent on Visa status as must be able to sign a lease under Residential Tenancy legislation)	X
Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy Services (IHSS) (DIAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - initial information and orientation assistance - assistance in finding accommodation - support with rental and utility costs - package of household goods - assistance to accessing services - trauma counselling - assistance in accessing Centrelink and Medicare - help in understanding Australian laws and culture - links to employment services - English language classes - translations and interpreter services 	√	X
Employment (DEEWR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work rights - Access to job Services Australia 	√	Some asylum seekers with work rights may have limited access to Job Services Australia providers
Education (DEEWR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public education (school aged) - HECS 	√	X
Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medicare (DHS) - Health Care Card (FaHCSIA) 	√	Temporary eligibility to Medicare (only those who have work rights)
Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme (ASA) administered by the Australian Red Cross under contract from DIAC – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and welfare services, including financial assistance. 	X	√
Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme (DIAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professional assistance with preparing a Protection visa application 	X	√