

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(BE12/0493) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees**

Senator Cash (L&CA 96) asked:

The Western Australian state government claimed it was not consulted over the Burmese resettlement plan in Bunbury. Citizen and Multicultural Interests minister John Castrilli said he was disappointed not to be included in the discussions with the immigration department. Is there a reason the department did not have discussions with Minister Castrilli?

*Answer:*

Consultations to date have been at a preliminary level. Departmental officers visited senior officers of the Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI) to brief them on the intention to consider Bunbury through preliminary local consultations in September 2011. Follow up meetings were held with the OMI Executive Director in April 2012.

Because refugees are settled in a specific location, the initial consultations were focused with stakeholders on the ground in Bunbury. If consideration of Bunbury as a refugee settlement location continues, next steps would include, among other things, consultation with WA government representatives and a wider group of stakeholders in Bunbury. A decision on these matters is yet to be made.