



24 January 2013

Attention: Jeanette Radcliffe

Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: human.rights@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Radcliffe,

Re: Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights: Examination of the Migration (Regional Processing) package of legislation – Question on Notice

We refer to the above matter.

In this regard, we note that subsequent to our appearance to give evidence at the hearing on 19 December 2012, we lodged a written submission to supplement our oral testimony. This submission in part addressed the matters arising from the Question on Notice (see paragraphs 8.1 and 8.2).

Our further response to the Question on Notice is as follows:

1. We refer to the recent announcement by Foreign Minister Bob Carr that \$375 million from the foreign aid budget will be diverted to pay for asylum expenses on the Australian mainland. It is not yet clear which aid programs will be affected. To date, there has been no public announcement or published account in relation to the redistribution of funding, despite calls for transparency and accountability from the Australian Council for International Development. However, the announced diversion may affect the amount of money Australia provides to refugee producing countries.
2. This recent announcement again reveals the Australian focus of asylum seeker policy and law making, without addressing the root causes of refugee movement. In our view, foreign aid funding could be used more effectively in the region and globally to promote refugee protection in Asia and elsewhere.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on (03) 9413 0103.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Manne', is written over a light grey horizontal line.

David Manne
Executive Director
Principal Solicitor and Registered Migration Agent (MARN 0001707)
Refugee & Immigration Legal Centre