

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015**

**IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

**(AE15/061) - Cambodia Agreement - Programme 2.1 Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance (Administered)**

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA 100) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Ms Pope, do you know whether there has been any official communication to asylum seekers in Nauru about going to Cambodia?

Ms Pope: The one point that has been clearly made is that it is voluntary, so the asylum seekers and refugees would be aware that it is a choice on their part. The rest of the advice has really been that, when we have more information in relation to how arrangements will proceed in Cambodia, we will provide that advice.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How has that message been conveyed?

Ms Pope: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Is there a briefing document that is given to officers at the detention centre?

Ms Pope: I would have to take it on notice.

*Answer:*

A communication guide on the Cambodia settlement option has been provided to Department of Immigration and Border Protection staff and service providers in Nauru. The guide assists staff and service providers to convey information verbally to refugees and includes the following messages:

- settlement in Cambodia is voluntary,
- refugees will not be forced to go to Cambodia,
- the timeframe for settlement is not yet known, and
- refugees will be advised when more information is available.