

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 08 February 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE16/050) - Ban of applications assessed onshore - Programme 1.5: IMA
Offshore Management**

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA 85) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That arrangement was struck in December 2014. We are now in February 2016. You are saying the minister has not lifted the bar to allow them to have their applications assessed onshore?

Mr Wilden: That is correct.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Why has it not happened yet?

Mr Wilden: I cannot speak for the minister on that. As you know, there have been several pieces of legislation that have been going through over the last year or so. But, as to why it has not been yet signed, I cannot speak for the minister.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: The minister has the ability to lift the bar, to allow people to have an application put forward onshore. It is not a legislative requirement that—

Mr Wilden: It is a ministerial instrument, correct.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So the minister can do that.

Mr Wilden: Yes.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: He made this arrangement, struck this deal, well over a year ago. So where are these people living? Are they in detention? Are they in the community?

Mr Wilden: I would have to take that on notice for that individual group.

Answer:

The babies and associated family members affected by December 2014 agreement are as at 8 February 2016 all residing in the Australian community on a Bridging E visa.