

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 27 February 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE17/211) - US Manus and Nauru Refugee Deal - Numbers and changes - Programme 2.2: Migration**

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

Please confirm that the maximum number of refugees the US will take as part of the refugee deal  
Is there a minimum number of people the United States has agreed to take?  
Is it possible that the US could take no refugees? Please detail how this situation could occur.  
Did President Trump or Minister Dutton seek to alter the deal following the US Presidential election?

*Answer:*

The Arrangement includes an indicative planning number of 1250 refugees to be resettled in the US. In his appearance on 20 March 2017 before the Senate Inquiry into *Serious allegations of abuse, self-harm and neglect of asylum seekers in regional processing centres*, Secretary Pezzullo rejected suggestions that the US may not take any refugees, stating "*I don't agree it could be zero.*" He further stated, "*I have given evidence to this committee before... that the arrangement struck with the Obama administration included an aim, or a goal, of 1,250 persons. Honouring the agreement would take you into that ballpark.*"

US authorities will conduct their own assessment of refugees endorsed by the UNHCR to determine which refugees and how many are resettled in the US. The numbers ultimately resettled in the US will depend on the numbers of refugees that express an interest and are approved by the US.

Neither President Trump nor the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection sought to alter the arrangement following the US Presidential Election.