

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 March 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE17/293) - Refugee employment - Programme 2.3: Visas**

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA) written:

What are the main barriers to refugees improving their labour market outcomes?

How are these barriers addressed through existing services and support?

What are the long-term trends for refugee employment compared to average labour market outcomes?

Will refugee employment outcomes be improved by lengthening the time of citizenship eligibility?

Are there positive employment factors associated with being a citizen? Can you please expand on this?

Income and employment outcomes appear to increase over time. Could citizenship be a factor in this improvement?

*Answer:*

The Department of Social Services (DSS) is the lead agency responsible for migrant settlement. DSS is the appropriate agency to respond to questions regarding labour market outcomes and settlement support services for refugees.