

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(BE15/172) - PNG - Refugees - Programme 2.4: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

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

- The first person in Manus found to be a refugee is an Iranian engineer, Reza Mollagholipour, who lined up job interviews in Port Moresby and was told he was not allowed to leave Manus the night before he was due to depart.
  - o Why was he not permitted to leave? When was the Department made aware that he would not be permitted to leave?
  - o What is DIBP and the Joint Advisory Committee doing to expedite the creation of a settlement policy?
    - o The PNG resettlement policy has been in place since July 2013. Why has it taken 2 years to set up a settlement policy?
    - o Will compensation be offered to Reza Mollagholipour for his lost employment opportunities and wasted plane tickets?

*Answer:*

Australia remains committed to supporting the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) to implement regional processing and settlement arrangements under the Regional Resettlement Arrangement (July 2013) and memorandum of understanding (August 2013).

Development and implementation of the PNG refugee policy is a matter for the PNG Government.

Any decisions regarding the settlement of refugees in PNG, including visa conditions, are matters for the Government of PNG.