

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/174) - Cambodia refugees - Programme 2.4: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

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

- Regarding the four refugees transferred to Cambodia, how long were they in transit in Darwin and what was the reason for the length of this transit?
- What benefits were they offered to go to Cambodia? Please provide all details of the assistance or incentives being offered as part of the offer to relocate to Cambodia, including financial payments.
- When did they decide to accept the offer to go to Cambodia? When were they first made this offer? How many times did departmental officials discuss the Cambodia deal with them before they accepted? How many times were these discussions initiated by the department or those officials and how many times did the refugees seek out advice?

Answer:

The first group of four refugees travelled to a transit location in anticipation of permanent settlement in Cambodia. Whilst in transit, refugees received essential pre-settlement services necessary for the successful integration into Cambodia. The four refugees transited through Australia in preparation for their arrival in Cambodia. They were in the Australia for 33 days.

An establishment package is provided to newly-arrived refugees to assist their settlement in Cambodia. Packages are tailored depending on family composition and individual needs.

In addition to the establishment package, refugees settling in Cambodia will receive settlement services, including case management, delivered by the International Organization for Migration, education and employment assistance, health insurance and accommodation support and subsidies.

Information sessions for refugees interested in voluntary settlement in Cambodia commenced in Nauru on 23 March 2015. Refugees had a range of options to obtain information about Cambodia settlement such as group information sessions and one-on-one interviews.