

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/182) - Offshore Processing Policy - Programme 2.2: Migration

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

Is offshore processing intended to be a deterrent to asylum seekers arriving in Australia by boat?
If it is not intended as a deterrent, what is the policy rationale?

Answer:

The Government introduced the *Regional Deterrence Framework* to combat people smuggling and deter illegal maritime arrivals. To give effect to this framework the government established Operation Sovereign Borders. Key initiatives of Operation Sovereign Borders include turning back the boats where safe to do so, expanding offshore processing and reintroducing Temporary Protections Visas.