

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/369) PROGRAMME – 3.5 and 3.6: Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA) Offshore Management

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

- What are the details of Australia's working relationship with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM)?
- How does the IOM assist with voluntary repatriations?
- What else does the IOM assist the Governments of Australia, PNG and Nauru with?

Answer:

The International Organization for Migration is a key service partner in developing, facilitating and implementing Australia's managed migration programmes. This includes assisted voluntary returns programmes for illegal maritime arrivals and non-illegal maritime arrivals; assisted passage, medical and related services for Australian Government-funded refugee and special humanitarian programme entrants; research projects and information on international migration flows and trends; engagement in multilateral fora on migration issues and managed migration strategies; and capacity building and population stabilisation operations in the Asia Pacific and Middle East.

Australia is also a member state of IOM, which enables our participation in the governance of the organisation and ensures that the work undertaken by IOM continues to reflect Australia's interests.

IOM works in partnership with the Australian Government to provide returns services to those non-citizens who want to voluntarily return from Australia but require assistance to do so. Depending on the location and status of the non-citizen (ie illegal maritime arrival or non-illegal maritime arrival), assistance may include a plane ticket; reception assistance in the country of return; travel assistance to final destination and reintegration assistance. For transferees returning from an Offshore Processing Centre, a similar returns and reintegration assistance package is delivered by IOM and funded by Australia.

IOM also plays a significant role in supporting countries to develop capacity in managed migration. For example, DIBP currently funds IOM in Papua New Guinea (PNG) to implement capacity building programmes with the PNG Immigration and Citizenship Service Authority, which includes legislative assistance and training.

IOM's role in relation to further assistance to the Governments of PNG and Nauru is a matter for those Governments.