

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/400) PROGRAMME – 2.1: and 2.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

- (a) Are there any plans to expand, increase or decrease the current allocation of 13 750 humanitarian places?
- (b) What is that 13 750 made up of? Please provide an updated breakdown since May 2014.
- (c) What is the role of UNHCR and other international associations in this process?

Answer:

- (a) On 23 December 2014, a disallowable instrument made under s39A of the Migration Act came into effect. The instrument sets out the minimum number of places in the Humanitarian Programme for each of the four financial years from 2015-16 to 2018-19.

Under the instrument there will be a minimum of:

- 13 750 places in 2015-16 and 2016-17
 - 16 250 places in 2017-18; and
 - 18 750 places in 2018-19.
- (b) There are 13 750 places in the 2014-15 Programme, comprising a minimum of 11 000 places for the offshore component, and up to 2 750 places for the onshore component.

An updated breakdown is as follows:

	27/05/2014 - 30/06/2014	01/07/2014- 27/11/2014	Total
Offshore Refugee category	712	2461	3173
Offshore SHP category	1185	1859	3044
Onshore	0	1557	1557
Total	1897	5877	7774

- (c) Under the offshore component, UNHCR provides refugee referrals which are considered by Australia for grant under the Refugee category. Other international agencies such as the International Organization for Migration provide support services including: medical examinations, including departure health checks; delivering the Australian Cultural Orientation Programme; and arranging flights and other travel assistance for Refugee category entrants.