

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/403) PROGRAMME – 2.1: and 2.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

I note that the Woman at Risk visa has been set as a minimum of 100 places for 2013-14.

Can you please provide an update as to whether that allocation will remain for the 2014-15 financial year?

Where can this be found in the Budget Papers?

Did the Department meet the allocation of 1000 places in 2013-14 financial year?

If not, why not?

If so, was there any overflow?

If so, why?

Have any additional support services been provided for overseas spouses?

If not, why not?

Did the pre-departure pack get produced or distributed?

If not, why not? *Note that in response to QoN AE14/281 no funding had been allocated at that stage for production or distribution of the pack.

Will it be produced and distributed for the 2014-15 financial year?

funding been allocated for the pack for 2014-15?

For a program that the Assistant Minister claims to be so important, there seems to be very little work and effort going into it to make sure that these women are being cared for and looked after.

Answer:

The Woman at Risk visa target of a minimum of 1 000 Refugee category visa places was met in 2013-14, with 1 052 visas granted.

The Woman at Risk visa target for the 2014-15 Humanitarian Programme has again been set at a minimum of 1 000 Refugee category visa places.

The 1 000 place Woman at Risk target in 2014-15 is included as a deliverable against Programme 2.1 and 2.2 in the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's Portfolio Budget Statement (Budget Related Paper 1.11).

The Department of Social Services has advised that it is developing content for the pre-departure information pack for overseas spouses in consultation with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, the Office for Women, the Attorney-General's Department and key stakeholders. Funding has been set aside for its production and distribution in 2014-15. Further questions on this issue should be directed to the Department of Social Services.