

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 19 October 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE15/067) - Relocation of refugees to small communities - Programme 2.4: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Macdonald, Ian (L&CA) written:

"Has any thought been given by the department to relocate some of the 12000 Syrian refugees to small communities throughout Queensland which have an issue with dwindling population and where development is needed?"

If a Local Council were interested in taking part in the relocation process for some of these refugees, are there a specific set of rules and criteria for them to apply to help this relocation process?

If so, where are these published?

Has the department received any expressions of interests from local councils in Queensland regarding the relocation of Syrian refugees? "

Answer:

The Department of Social Services is responsible for providing settlement support and assistance to people who come to Australia through Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Programme, including location of settlement, except eligible unaccompanied minors who are supported through the Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors Programme, administered by the Department.

People who come to Australia as part of this intake will be settled in a number of Australian communities, in both metropolitan and regional areas. The Department of Social Services will take into account a range of factors, on a case-by-case basis, when deciding on settlement locations.

Consideration of these factors is a normal part of the decision making process undertaken before humanitarian entrants arrive in Australia. The Department of Social Services is consulting with state and territory governments on these matters.