

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE16/034) - Central America - Increase of intake - Programme 2.4: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 89) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: What was the date on which the Australian government agreed to increase its intake from Central America?

Mr Pezzullo: As part of taking that on notice and subject, of course, to being discreet about when meetings of the cabinet occur and the like —

Senator KIM CARR: We know the rules here.

Mr Pezzullo: We both know the rules, Senator.

Senator KIM CARR: The decisions of government are public. It is not a question of what was discussed at the cabinet. When decisions were made—

Mr Pezzullo: When you ask when the Australian government made its decision, we will take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: I presume there was a cabinet submission.

Mr Pezzullo: You can assume there was a proper decision-making process, yes. We will research it on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: I will ask a separate question, then. Was there a cabinet decision; if so, on what date was it?

Mr Pezzullo: Some of these matters would be dealt with at the full cabinet level. In other cases ministers exchange, as you well know, Senator.

Senator KIM CARR: That is my second question. If it was not by cabinet decision, was it by correspondence?

Mr Pezzullo: It could be by cabinet committee or it could be by correspondence.

Senator KIM CARR: There would still be sign off in a cabinet committee.

Mr Pezzullo: Indeed. We will look at the level at which these decisions were made and come back to you.

Senator KIM CARR: I would like to know the date on which decisions were made.

Mr Pezzullo: We will come back to you on that.

Answer:

See response to SE16/031 and SE16/033.