

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(102) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (L&CA 83) asked:

Provide a list of the countries that the Australian government has informed about the regional processing centre?

Answer:

On 6 July 2010, in a speech to the Lowy Institute, Prime Minister Gillard publicly announced the proposal for a regional processing centre.

The assessment centre has been discussed in general terms with a wide range of countries as part of Australia's broader advocacy to establish a regional cooperation framework, including through the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (the Bali Process), which comprises 43 member countries and involves the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration.

On 30 March 2011, delegates at the fourth Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process agreed to establish a regional cooperation framework, which identifies the establishment of a centre or centres as one means through which states could cooperate to enhance consistency in asylum processing.