

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(230) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

Is the Government considering releasing any of the asylum seekers currently detained into the community pending resolution of the accommodation crisis?

Answer:

On 18 October 2010, the Government announced an expansion of its Residence Determination program (also known as community detention), with the aim of moving significant numbers of unaccompanied minors and vulnerable family groups from immigration detention facilities into community-based accommodation while their immigration status is resolved. Approved clients are placed in community detention after appropriate identity, health and risk assessments are undertaken.

Whilst approved clients reside in the community, they are still technically detained. Community detention placement decisions made by the Minister take into account individual client circumstances and vulnerabilities.