

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(AE12/0264) Program 4.2: Asylum seekers - refusals**

Senator Cash asked:

What will happen to those asylum seekers who are currently in the POD and IMR process? Will they continue with that process or will refusals at the primary level go straight to the RRT?

*Answer:*

On 19 March 2012, the Minister announced that the current onshore arrangements, where asylum claims are assessed through the Protection visa process and independent review through the Refugee Review Tribunal system, will now apply to all people seeking asylum in Australia, regardless of their mode of arrival.

The new system will apply to asylum seekers who arrive in Australia from 24 March 2012 as well as those who arrived prior to that date but have not yet had a primary assessment interview as at 24 March 2012.

Those persons who have had their primary assessment interview as at 24 March 2012 under the non-statutory process will continue in that process with access to existing IMR arrangements. All asylum seekers will continue to have access to judicial review.