

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(AE12/0310) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Boyce (L&CA 65 & 106) asked:

What discussion have you had with FaHCSIA about the National Disability Insurance Scheme and how it would work and apply to asylum seekers?

*Answer:*

DIAC and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) have not discussed the National Disability Insurance Scheme and its applicability to asylum seekers.

On 8 March 2012 FaHCSIA advised DIAC:

*The Australian Government has started work with states and territories, which are principally responsible for funding and delivering disability support services, to fundamentally reform disability care and support.*

*At its meeting of 20 October 2011 the Select Council on Disability Reform agreed to elements of a high level work program for developing the foundations for reform of disability services that included a building block Gateway - Eligibility, intake and assessment. Work on the overall design is proceeding with state and territory governments and at this stage, eligibility criteria for a National Disability Insurance Scheme have not been decided.*

*FaHCSIA is working with the states and territories on the detailed design of a NDIS. All relevant agencies will be consulted as the work progresses.*