

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0437) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Michaelia Cash asked:

Have any providers now been in technical breach because people were not housed in long-term accommodation in the required time frame?

Answer:

Under the standard contract between the department and Humanitarian Settlement Services providers, which commenced in April 2011, service providers are required to ensure that all clients are residing in long-term accommodation (LTA) within six months of arrival (in Australia).

At this stage, there have not been any reported instances of a breach of this contract provision.

The contract also specifies that if short-term accommodation (STA) is required, clients should be housed by the provider in STA for “a brief period (typically 12 weeks)”. Following discussion with clients and service providers, DIAC is satisfied that where a client was in STA beyond the 12 week period, there were satisfactory reasons for the extended stay and that the provider was taking appropriate action to assist the client to move to LTA.