

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0438) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Michaelia Cash asked:

With reference to the inspection of the 540 properties referred to at the last estimates hearing, this equates to approximately 10% of properties currently in use. Please provide details of when the Department expects to inspect all properties in use.

Answer:

The department's policy relating to future inspection of short-term accommodation (STA) and long-term accommodation (LTA) is currently being re-formulated in accordance with the recommendations of the Richmond Review. One of the key enhancements will be the development of a risk management and quality assurance framework (recommendations 65 and 60), which is sensitive to service provider performance, property location and client experiences. Inspection of properties would therefore be driven by where there were identified concerns about service delivery and known client risk factors, such as clients with health issues, large families, those in STA longer than 12 weeks and clients in share accommodation arrangements.