

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0003) PROGRAM – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (L&CA 9) asked:

Minister Bowen, the former Minister for Immigration and Citizenship has ruled out giving asylum seekers on Nauru access to Australian courts. Rather, they would have appeal to a merits review panel with joint Australia-Nauru involvement. What is the status of that?

Answer:

Asylum seekers on Nauru are subject to, and processed under, Nauruan law. Any legal proceedings by them must be brought in the Nauruan legal system.

Part 3 of the *Refugees Convention Act 2012* of Nauru establishes a Refugee Status Review Tribunal, which conducts merits review in accordance with Part 4 of this Act.