

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0506) PROGRAM – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

What consultations are undertaken between DIAC and State/Territory Police Forces, other State/Territory emergency services, state/territory service departments, state/territory non-government organisations specifically about the locations utilised for accommodating asylum seekers on bridging visas under the Community Assistance Support scheme? At what point are State/Territory Police Forces, other State/Territory emergency services, state/territory service departments, state/territory non-government organisations informed that asylum seekers on bridging visas under the Community Assistance Support scheme are located in specific communities in the state/territory?

Answer:

No consultations have been undertaken between DIAC and State/Territory Police Forces, other State/Territory emergency services, state/territory service departments, state/territory non-government organisations regarding locations utilised for accommodating asylum seekers on bridging visas under the Community Assistance Support (CAS) program.

Our contracted service providers are responsible for providing accommodation services to asylum seekers on a Bridging visa E. Should there be a need for consultation with other stakeholders the service providers will undertake consultation with various stakeholders if the need arises.

Due to privacy reasons, the State/Territory Police Forces, other State/Territory emergency services, state/territory service departments, state/territory non-government organisations are not informed that asylum seekers on bridging visas under CAS are located in specific communities in the state/territory. However, should a query come from an organisation mentioned above, the departmental will respond as appropriate.