

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/281) PROGRAMME - 2.1 Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Senator Cash mentioned at the November estimates she would like to see 1000 of the 11,000 be quarantined for 'women at risk'.

Has this been granted?

If not, why?

If so, how many have been allocated to date?

Please provide an update on the process.

Are there any plans to change the number of visas in this subclass (e.g. less, more) in the next financial year or other period?

In reference to the Coalition's Policy for Women, this document includes a commitment to strengthened support services for overseas spouses including the production of a pre-departure information pack:

Have any additional support services been provided for overseas spouses?

Has the pre-departure pack information pack been produced?

If not, why?

Has the pack been distributed?

What funding is available for the production and distribution of the pack?

Answer:

The Woman at Risk visa target for the 2013–14 Humanitarian Programme has been set at a minimum of 1 000 Refugee category visas.

To 28 February 2014, there have been 882 Woman at Risk visas granted under the 2013–14 Humanitarian Programme.

The department is on track to meet the Woman at Risk visa target in 2013–14.

The Government sets the Woman at Risk visa target annually, in the context of considerations regarding the broad size and planning levels of the Humanitarian Programme.

No additional support services been provided, as yet, for overseas spouses.

The pre-departure information pack has not, as yet, been produced or distributed.

No funding has been allocated, at this stage, for the production or distribution of the pack.

Following Machinery of Government changes in November 2013, responsibility for the production of some information resources has transferred to the Department of Social Services (DSS).

DSS will work closely with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection regarding the development and provision of information resources concerning support services for migrants, including overseas spouses.