

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/392) PROGRAMME – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

The Government stated in December that offshore processing would cost a total of \$2 billion in financial years 2012-2016.

1. How much of this \$2 billion is allocated to the costs of supporting the resettlement of refugees in Papua New Guinea?
2. If the costs of supporting the resettlement of refugees in PNG is not included in this \$2 billion estimate, how much does the Government estimate it will provide to support resettlement of refugees in PNG? On what will this funding be spent?
3. How much of this \$2 billion is allocated to the expansion of the Regional Processing Centres at Nauru and Manus Island, PNG?
4. Of any expansion funds, how much money is allocated to expansion of medical facilities in the Regional Processing Centres?
5. Of any expansion funds, how much money is allocated to expansion of education facilities in the Nauru Regional Processing Centre?
6. How much of this \$2 billion is allocated to training Nauruan and PNG immigration staff to process asylum seekers?
7. What agreement has been reached between Nauru, Australia and PNG regarding the resettlement of refugees currently held on Nauru? What will happen to these people once granted refugee status?

Answer:

Of the \$2 billion announced by the Government for offshore processing over the period 2012-2016, approximately \$690 million was allocated to the costs of supporting status determination, returns and resettlement of refugees.

In addition, approximately \$620 million was allocated to Manus for the expansion of Offshore Processing Centre (OPC) operations including medical facilities. Approximately \$390 million was allocated to the expansion to Nauru OPC operations including educational and medical facilities.

Costs for the training of PNG and Nauruan immigration staff will be met from within the existing programme resources.

Negotiations are ongoing between Nauru, Australia and PNG regarding the resettlement of refugees. Transferees that are found to be owed protection by the

Government of Nauru will be settled in Nauru for up to 5 years. Transferees found to be owed protection by the Government of PNG will be settled there.

The remaining funds relate to non-facility related support services, including garrison, welfare and health.