

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(156) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Nettle asked:

LOMBOK - Transit processing

Regarding the \$14 million allocated in the recent budget over four years to pay the IOM and UNHCR to process prospective asylum seekers in Indonesia:

1. Will most of this money be spent maintaining the facilities/presence in Lombok?
2. How are prospective asylum seekers chosen to be eligible for processing under this scheme? Do they have to be turned back by our Navy or can they just turn up and say they were thinking of coming to Australia? What is the criteria?

Answer:

1. No money is spent on maintaining facilities/presence on Lombok. The money is spent in providing care - accommodation in tourist style hostels, food and emergency medical assistance for, at 31 May 2006, about 37 per cent of the persons under IOM care in Indonesia.
2. Persons with the intention of travelling illegally to Australia are referred to IOM and UNHCR.