

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

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

Senator Nettle asked:

Provide details of IOM/UNHCR operations in Papua New Guinea funded by Australia.

Answer:

DIMA is aware of the following IOM/UNHCR operations in Papua New Guinea (PNG):

- Under the International Refugee Fund (IRF), administered by AusAID, Australia accepts funding proposals annually from eligible international agencies including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In 2005-06, the IRF provided UNHCR with AUD 5 million for protection and subsistence assistance to individual urban refugees and asylum seekers in asylum countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including in PNG; and
- IOM manages the Offshore Processing Centre (OPC) in Manus Province, PNG, on behalf of the governments of Australia and PNG. Under the terms with the MOU between the two governments, Australia meets all costs associated with the operation of the OPC. For the financial year to 31 May 2006, DIMA has spent about AUD 2.2 million on Manus OPC.