

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(250) Output 1.5: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Nettle asked:

1. What kind of agreement has been made with the Nauru Government in regard to the new policy?
2. What is the basis for payment to Nauru?
3. Is there a fee per detainee?
4. What will a detainee's status be on Nauru?

*Answer:*

1. There has been no new agreement established to date with Nauru in respect of the new policy. The existing Memorandum of Understanding covers the operations of the Offshore Processing Centre.
2. No direct payment to the Government of Nauru in relation to the new policy has been made or is anticipated.
3. No. Asylum seekers would be in Nauru legally on special purpose visas issued by the Government of Nauru.
4. Asylum seekers are admitted to Nauru with visas granted by the Government of Nauru. Asylum seekers resident at the OPC are not subject to the Australian Migration Act and under in-principle agreements already reached with Nauru will be subject to prescribed open centre arrangements and to visa conditions set down by the Nauru Government. The status of any asylum seeker resident at the OPC would thus be that of special purpose visa holder temporarily resident in Nauru.