

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24/05/2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0730) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Michaelia Cash (Written) asked:

The Settlement Outcomes of New Arrivals report identified that new entrants to Australia have difficulty in finding affordable and appropriate accommodation. Has the department identified how and where it is going to secure the accommodation required to house the 4000 refugees Australia will take from Malaysia over the next four years as part of the bilateral agreement with Malaysia?

Answer:

The Humanitarian Settlement Service (HSS) contract which commenced on 4 April 2011 has been set up to deliver initial settlement services based on assessed need to those granted a visa under the Humanitarian Program through contracted service providers across Australia. Any Humanitarian Program visa holder, including those coming from Malaysia, would be treated in the same manner for settlement purposes. This includes assistance with finding suitable accommodation in their transition into the Australian community.