QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(111) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

In answer to question 57 following the May 2009 Estimates, DIAC advised on efforts to encourage higher levels of humanitarian settlement in regional areas. The answer identified a number of regional locations across Australia. Can you outline how performance in this area is monitored and what has been the corresponding increase or decrease of refugees who settle in each regional location identified?

Answer:

The Department in collaboration with service providers have undertaken several studies of initial settlement outcomes of humanitarian entrants in regional areas. Some of which include:

- A review of feedback material collected by the Department including Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy (IHSS) Quality Assurance reports and Client Contact Visits;
- Telephone interviews with humanitarian arrivals residing in regional areas;
- Survey of IHSS service providers on their experience of service delivery for various humanitarian caseloads; and
- Focus group sessions in regional centres to seek feedback on the settlement experience of humanitarian entrants.

These studies have shown that humanitarian entrants in regional areas are valued members of the local community, quite a few are now in sustained employment and have become home-owners. With high levels of participation in volunteering reported, entrants are now assisting the settlement of more recent humanitarian arrivals to regional areas.

The following table shows how many humanitarian entrants have settled in the 15 regional areas across Australia by calendar year of arrival. These figures are current as at 4 October 2009 and capture direct settlement of humanitarian entrants by DIAC and secondary movement numbers into these regional areas.

In all regional areas outlined below settlement of new humanitarian arrivals has taken place. Overall regional settlement has increased with 84 people from 2008 to 4 October 2009 and settlement may have occurred in other regional areas resulting from individual choice that is not necessarily reflected below.

Local Government Areas	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Albury (C)	1	5	4	19	35	58	122
Ballarat (C)	18	26	15	34	31	9	133
Cairns (C)	52	84	36	47	33	58	310
Coffs Harbour (C)	37	64	39	69	76	60	345
Gold Coast (C)	24	46	75	87	46	80	358
Greater Geelong (C)	65	85	45	59	126	122	502
Launceston (C)	76	111	70	87	148	84	576
Mount Gambier (C)	0	0	0	41	5	82	128
Murray Bridge (RC)	13	15	29	5	0	4	66
Newcastle (C)	122	142	54	69	47	60	494
Shepparton (C)	42	124	169	127	54	46	562
Toowoomba (C)	149	123	95	93	60	47	567
Townsville (C)	16	33	19	19	26	47	160
Wagga Wagga (C)	42	53	71	62	20	16	264
Wollongong (C)	53	67	65	123	94	112	514
Total	**710**	**978**	**786**	**941**	**801**	**885**	**5,101**