

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE – LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

**INQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIA'S AGREEMENT WITH MALAYSIA IN RELATION TO  
ASYLUM SEEKERS: 23 SEPTEMBER 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(QON 29)**

Senator Cash asked (in writing):

[Regarding costs – return of failed asylum seekers] There are many refugees in Malaysia who have been there for up to 20 years. How long will Australia have to pay for the refugees that are sent to Malaysia by Australia under the Agreement in particular given that as the Department states at clause 39 of its submission, they will not receive preferential processing or resettlement treatment over the 94,000 asylum seekers and refugees already in Malaysia?

*Answer:*

Australia would remain involved with transferees until they are provided with a durable outcome whether that is resettlement in a third country or return to their country of origin.

The Australian Government would work closely with the Malaysian Government, UNHCR and IOM to facilitate satisfactory outcomes for transferees in a timely manner.