

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 08 February 2016**

**IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

**(AE16/055) - Refugees living in RPC - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management**

Senator Bilyk, Catryna (L&CA 89) asked:

Senator BILYK: How many of those people found to be refugees are still living within the RPC?

Ms Briscoe: In addition to that 357—so they are not yet found to be refugees—there are 180 who have been found to be refugees still living in the RPC.

Senator BILYK: Is that by choice or because there is no housing available for them in the community?

Ms Briscoe: That is related to the availability of settlement accommodation, which has been coming on in batches since November and will continue to do so.

Senator BILYK: As in houses?

Ms Briscoe: Yes.

Senator BILYK: You will have to take this on notice, I am sure. Just tell us how many houses are ready and what the time frame is for the rest of them.

Ms Briscoe: There are 840 living in the community. That does not necessarily tell you the number of houses, because people would be living in family groups.

Senator BILYK: I am interested in how long it is going to take for the 180 who could be living out in housing to be able to get there.

Ms Briscoe: I do not have that off the top of my head. I will take that on notice.

*Answer:*

Based on the current construction schedule, it is expected that all refugees currently accommodated in the regional processing centre will be relocated into permanent settlement accommodation by December 2016.