

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 27 February 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE17/002) - US Resettlement arrangement - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management

Senator Hinch, Derryn (L&CA 12) asked:

Senator Cash: I am advised that on 21 February 2017 Minister Dutton specifically stated that the arrangement is not a people swap deal.

Senator HINCH: All right, Minister. How does that gel with what he said to Andrew Bolt two nights before and before Foreign Minister Bishop then of course—

Senator Cash: Unfortunately, I do not have what he said to Andrew Bolt in front of me so I would need to take that on notice, but again, as the secretary has stated, the minister has clarified his comments and again on 21 February 2017 he did say that the arrangement is not a people swap deal.

Senator HINCH: Right, so you would now say that they are not linked?

Senator Cash: I would say on behalf of the minister that the arrangement is not a people swap deal.

Answer:

The Australian Government has consistently said that Australia's involvement in the Protection Transfer Arrangement in Costa Rica is not part of a people swap arrangement with the US.

This includes Minister Dutton's comments on 21 February 2017 during an interview with Andrew Bolt on Sky News, "It wasn't a people swap deal".

As the Prime Minister stated when he announced the resettlement arrangement on 13 November 2016, we have a long history of cooperation with the US in which our two nations pursue our mutual and respective humanitarian objectives.

As part of this history of cooperation, we will continue to work with the US on a range of global refugee and humanitarian initiatives.