

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE17/061) - Third country resettlement - New Zealand - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management

Senator Watt, Murray (L&CA 131) asked:

Senator WATT: It has been noted. Have there been any discussions, diplomatic engagement or negotiations with New Zealand concerning their offer in, say, the last three months?

Mr Pezzullo: I can say categorically there have been no negotiations. There have been, from time to time, diplomatic engagements on the question. On whether there have been in the last three months or not, I will have to refresh my memory.

Senator WATT: Is anyone else aware of whether there has been anything in the last three months?

Mr Pezzullo: Ms Noble—somewhere along the spectrum between a discussion and a diplomatic engagement.

Ms Noble: That is right. No, I would have to take that on notice, because I know the two prime ministers, for example, have met in that time frame. I do not know whether they exchanged information about it.

Answer:

The Australian Government regularly discusses immigration and border security matters with the New Zealand Government, including third country resettlement issues.