

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 22 May 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(BE17/155) - Community sponsor program - consultation, fees and services -
Programme 2.4: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA) written:

1. In regard to business sponsorship, is it intended that the refugees would pay or repay any of the cost? If so what measures would be in place to prevent fraud and exploitation?
2. How confident is the Government that businesses would be willing to pay the high sponsor fees?
3. Unlike family sponsors, business sponsors would be less equipped to assist refugees with all the settlement and integration support they need. What settlement services would refugees sponsored by business sponsors would be eligible for?
4. How will the Department ensure business and community groups are involved and consulted in how this program is designed and evaluated?

Answer:

1. Under the Community Support Programme (CSP) proposers, rather than refugees will be required to meet costs. Refugees will not need to repay any costs. All CSP entrants will be supported by an Approved Proposing Organisation (APO) that provides a link between the proposing community organisation, business or family and the refugee. APOs will be legally responsible for ensuring settlement outcomes are delivered and will oversee the delivery of support services to CSP entrants. APOs will be responsible for ensuring that entrants understand their entitlements to social security and other services as well as Australia's worker protection measures.
2. A number of businesses have expressed interest in a model of private sponsorship of refugees.
3. Proposers will be required to support the entrant during their first year of settlement in Australia. They will do this by funding the entrant's: airfares; medical screening; settlement services on arrival; and visa application charges. All CSP applications must be supported by an APO. APOs will be legally responsible for ensuring settlement outcomes are delivered and will oversee the delivery of support services to CSP entrants. To be approved as APO, an organisation must demonstrate that it has the capacity to provide appropriate settlement support and other services to CSP entrants. There will be a requirement for some of the settlement services to be delivered by a Humanitarian Settlement Services provider contracted to the Department of Social Services. Other settlement services will be able to be delivered by the APO or the proposer.

4. The Community Proposal Pilot has been operating since 2013. Feedback from current approved proposing organisations, will inform the new CSP. Community organisations and others have also had an opportunity to provide feedback through the annual consultations on the Humanitarian Programme.