

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/359) PROGRAMME – 3.5 and 3.6: Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA) Offshore Management

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

What is the status of the resettlement arrangements on Manus Island/PNG?

Answer:

On 19 October 2014, Papua New Guinea's (PNG) Prime Minister, Peter O'Neill, announced that the Government of PNG would develop a new settlement policy following a comprehensive programme of public awareness raising and consultation with the PNG community.

In the interim, refugees will be accommodated at the East Lorengau Refugee Transit Centre, where they will receive a number of services including:

- basic welfare assistance including a living allowance;
- cultural orientation and language training (English and Tok Pisin);
- access to local health services;
- torture and trauma counselling; and
- case management support to assist refugees as they begin their life in PNG, including finding employment or further training to develop their job readiness.