

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 FEBRUARY 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(73) Output 2.1: Settlement Services

Senator Ellison asked:

- (1) Has the department commenced discussion or provided input to Labor's National Housing Strategy, which is to directly take into account the needs of migrants?
- (2) If so what form is this discussion taking, recommendations made, etc?
- (3) If not why not, when is it envisaged that this will occur, has the department begun preparing work in this area?

Answer:

(1) – (3) The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) regularly engages with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) to raise the housing needs and experiences of migrants and humanitarian entrants.

DIAC is represented on the Interdepartmental Committee on Housing, chaired by FaHCSIA, which is considering government housing assistance.

DIAC recently invited a representative from FaHCSIA to attend a meeting of State/Territory government and settlement services sector representatives to discuss options within the scope of the Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy to improve access to appropriate and affordable housing for humanitarian entrants.