

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(107) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Cash asked:

(1) How much funding was provided to the IOM for activities in the region during the 2009/10 financial year?

(2) What activities did Australia fund and what was the outcome of those activities? How many asylum seekers did IOM look after?

*Answer:*

(1) During 2009–10, an amount of \$26.5 million was provided to the IOM by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) in the Asia-Pacific region. This figure does not include IOM activities undertaken in Australia.

(2) Activities that were funded by DIAC and their outcomes are provided below:

- IOM provided care and maintenance to an average of 1179 intercepted irregular migrants per month in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and East Timor.
- IOM provided assistance to Indonesian authorities to manage migration, including monitoring and managing irregular migration flows and people smuggling activities.
- IOM secured community accommodation for intercepted irregular migrants in Indonesia.
- IOM provided assistance to support Indonesia to undertake minor refurbishments, address overcrowding and improve conditions in immigration facilities across Indonesia.
- IOM performed an enhanced migration management project in East Timor that has enabled:
  - the transition of the Department of Immigration, being a unit within the national police, to being an autonomous migration agency;
  - the drafting of the Organic Law and Personnel Statutes which have been accepted by the Secretary of State for Security for submission to the Council of Ministers; and

- the introduction of risk-based processing at the borders, most notably by providing the basis for the East Timor Government to reach a decision to restrict access to visas on arrival to the nationals of low risk countries.
- IOM facilitated refugee travel, medical screening and related services for humanitarian applicants under Australia's humanitarian program globally.
- The Australian Cultural Orientation Program (AUSCO) – a program for refugee and humanitarian visa holders preparing to be resettled in Australia.
- IOM provided a needs assessment report into biometric capabilities for the Sri Lankan Department of Immigration and Emigration.
- IOM provided logistical and administrative support to the Bali Process, including assistance with organisation of DIAC-led meetings and workshops.
- IOM provided assistance for a border management capacity building project to enhance the capacity of the Solomon Islands Government to control its borders through drafting legislation and assisted with the introduction of new visa types such as business and work visas.
- IOM provided a program to assist Pacific Island countries effect the voluntary return home of irregular migrants.
- IOM continues to provide advisory and technical support services to the Papua New Guinea Immigration Service.