

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0377) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

Leonora: What is the funding arrangement in place with the WA government to provide education services at the local public school? What conflict has arisen from the funding arrangements between the Commonwealth and Western Australia?

Answer:

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Commonwealth and the Western Australian Government for the provision of an education program to the children of asylum seekers at Leonora District High School expired on 28 January 2011, and was extended by way of an exchange of letters until the end of the 2011 school year.

There is no new funding agreement in place as the Western Australian Government is currently not providing education services to clients accommodated at the Leonora Alternative Place of Detention.

No conflict has arisen from the previous funding arrangements – all invoices provided by the Western Australian Government for education services provided in 2011 have been paid by the Commonwealth.