

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(AE12/0450) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees**

Senator Cash asked:

The Richmond report states at page 10 /11: "At a time of increased numbers, larger than previous surges and significant changes in the characteristics of the Irregular Maritime Arrival cohort, the right balance is important. There is a real risk that the HSS model will continue to have difficulty in coping with and responding to the needs of single adult males and Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors and may require modification. At the same time recent DIAC initiatives such as community detention and programs for unaccompanied minors which also involve outsourcing to Providers may increase DIAC's coordination risks in and around HSS. Irrespective however, of enhancements to the service delivery model under HSS or elsewhere, critical elements which require improvement are the DIAC placement referral policies and procedures as clients are managed from detention to the community. "What coordination takes place within the Department as to where to house HSS clients and those in community detention?"

*Answer:*

Considerations about location for both community detention (CD) and subsequent settlement under the Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) program for those clients who are granted a Protection visa is a client-centric process, based on need and takes into account pre-existing links in the community. This reflects the importance of support from links in creating a positive environment to assist clients to successfully establish themselves in the community.

Following the grant of a visa, clients in CD continue to receive some support from the Australian Red Cross while they transition into the HSS program. Clients may remain living at the CD property during the transition period until placed into either short-term or long-term accommodation, sourced by the HSS service provider.

In order to build on a client's already established successful community links, DIAC will settle clients in the same contract region as their CD location. In rare cases, where clients have close family links elsewhere, they may be relocated under the HSS program. This helps to ensure that families remain together wherever possible.