

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(AE13/0182) PROGRAM – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

Provide an update on the progress of the \$6 million “Irregular Migration” research program announced in MYEFO? Provide details of members of the advisory body? Which non-government organisations are assisting in that research?

*Answer:*

In January 2013, the former Minister agreed to a multi-layered approach to the development of the research program, including commissioned research, the establishment of a grants program and a multi-year research partnership arrangement with an external institution.

As at 11 February 2013, the Department is progressing a partnership arrangement with the Australian National University (ANU) as part of an existing collaboration between the Crawford School of Public Policy at ANU and the Australian Government. This will provide the basis for enabling a broad range of universities and research institutes to contribute to improving the evidence base on migration processes and pathways of irregular migrants seeking asylum.

The Department has engaged McNair Ingenuity Research to conduct a quantitative survey of irregular maritime arrivals who have been granted protection visas, at a cost of \$461 940 (GST inclusive). The survey is intended to provide a better understanding of why and how people decide to leave their home or host countries and come to Australia, including in relation to economic, family, asylum and other factors.

To support the development of the research program, an Irregular Migration Research Advisory Group (Advisory Group), comprising leading migration academics, non-government organisations and government officials has been established. A list of Advisory Group members, including members from non-government organisations, is attached.

**Irregular Migration Research Advisory Group Membership**

**(Chair) Dr Wendy Southern**, Deputy Secretary, Policy and Program Management Group, Department of Immigration and Citizenship

**Mr Garry Fleming**, First Assistant Secretary, Strategic Policy and Innovation Division, Department of Immigration and Citizenship

**Professor Stephen Castles**, Research Chair in Sociology, Department of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Sydney

**Professor Graeme Hugo**, Director, Australian Population and Migration Research Centre, University of Adelaide

**Professor Mohammad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi**, Future Fellow, Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute, Australian National University

**Professor Tim Hatton**, Research School of Economics, College of Business and Economics, Australian National University

**Mr Peter Hughes**, Program Visitor, Regulatory Institutions Network, School of Regulation, Justice and Diplomacy, Australian National University

**Mr Mark Getchell**, Chief of Mission, Australia, International Organization for Migration

**(Observer) Mr Richard Towle**, Regional Representative, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

**Fr Aloysius Mowe**, Director, Jesuit Refugee Service

**Dr Maryanne Loughry**, Associate Director, Jesuit Refugee Service

**Dr Ashton Robinson**, Assistant Secretary-General, Transnational Issues Branch, Office of National Assessments

**Mr Craig Chittick**, Ambassador for People Smuggling Issues, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Dr Derek Bopping**, Director, People Smuggling Intelligence Analysis Team, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

**Ms Marie McAuliffe**, Director, Irregular Migration Research and Analysis Section, Department of Immigration and Citizenship