QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0293) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (written) asked:

What contracts does DIAC have with the Red Cross? Are those contracts public? What is the value of each of the contracts and have any variations been made? Who has the contracts and is the Red Cross able to sub-contact? How are these contracts tendered? Who makes the decision to give a contract to an individual or company? What accountability mechanisms are in place? What was the value of those contracts in 2011-12 and for 2012-13?

Answer:

The Department has one contract with the Australian Red Cross (ARC) which covers four programs: the Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme (ASAS), Community Assistance Support (CAS) program, Community Detention (CD) and Restoring Family Links (RFL).

Details on the Red Cross contracts, including their value and any variations, can be found on the Austender website at:
https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.cn.view&CNUUID=5D051D19-E7B7-F968-264401266BE1361C

Red Cross is able to sub-contract, though requires permission from the department to do so.

The ARC was contracted by way of a direct source tender. The contract was finalised as an exempt procurement through section 2.7 of the then Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines.

The Department has specific delegation requirements for the spending of public money and procurement processes. These prescribe that a financial delegate of the Department must approve the commitment of public money prior to a purchase or commitment being entered into with a supplier or contractor. This approval must be given prior to a contract being signed.

The Department implements robust contract management and quality assurance processes to ensure accountability in the delivery of all services contracted to the ARC.