

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0320) PROGRAM – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

How does the department see the new restrictions in relation to the sponsorship of family members by IMA's working? What is the cost of an application for a partner and child visa under the family reunion program as opposed to the refugee and humanitarian program? Are there any differences in the level of welfare and other support between family reunion through the humanitarian program and through the family reunion program? What are they?

Answer:

Any irregular maritime arrival who arrived on or after 13 August 2012 will not be able to propose family members in the Humanitarian Program.

There is no application fee in the Humanitarian Program. The application fee for a partner visa is \$2680 and most child visas are \$2060 depending on the visa subclass.

Humanitarian Program visa holders are eligible for support services under the Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) program but Family Migration visa holders are not.

Initial HSS is provided on a needs basis and it may include:

- arrival reception and assistance
- assistance with finding accommodation (short and long term)
- property induction
- providing an initial food package and start-up pack of household goods
- assistance to register with Centrelink, Medicare, health services, banks and schools
- linking with community and recreational programs.

HSS clients may have other needs that are not met by the HSS program. These may be met by other settlement programs or by general services available to the broader Australian community.

Centrelink should be consulted on the details of further welfare provisions for Humanitarian and Family migrants.