

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/118) PROGRAMME – 2.1 Refugee and humanitarian assistance

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

- (a) It has been reported that the Queensland Government has spoken with Minister Morrison regarding a 'fast-track' application procedure if immigrants and refugees would be willing to settle in regional Queensland.
- (b) What is the status of these discussions?
- (c) Have any formal discussions taken place?
- (d) If so, what are the details of those discussions?
- (e) If not, are formal discussions scheduled to take place?
- (f) If so, when? (g) When is it envisioned for this initiative to commence? (h) Will these 'fast track' applicants be counted in Australia's Humanitarian and Protection program? (i) If yes, how many of the 13, 750 places will be dedicated to this initiative? (j) If not, how many places would be available to immigrants and refugees under this initiative?

Answer:

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection is unaware of the reported conversations between the Queensland Government and Minister Morrison.

Creation of a Fast Track Assessment Process was a pre-election commitment of the Government and its implementation is currently under consideration.