

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(AE14/279) PROGRAMME – Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

What is the departments plans for the onshore asylum seekers who arrived by boat?

When will their applications be assessed?

Given that they will not be settled in Australia, where will go? What arrangements have been made on their behalf regarding their future?

If they are found to be refugees, what will their options be?

Will the government negotiate on their behalf resettlement options in a third state?

What is the role of UNHCR and other international associations in this process?

*Answer:*

Asylum seekers who arrived by boat prior to 19 July 2013 will have their claims for protection assessed in Australia, unless they are liable for and are transferred to an Offshore Processing Centre for assessment.

Some applications have already been assessed and others are being assessed. Others will be able to apply to have their claims assessed once the Minister lifts the application bar enabling a valid application to be made.

Government policy is that those who are owed protection will be granted temporary protection visas. A person's protection claims would be reassessed within three years after which time a further temporary visa would be available if all the visa criteria are satisfied. Those not eligible for a further visa are expected to depart Australia. Since the disallowance of the temporary protection visa regulations, other temporary humanitarian visas have been granted to people who arrived illegally and who are owed protection.

With the exception of those people with adverse security assessments, there are no plans to negotiate third country resettlement for the caseload being processed in Australia.

The UNHCR is not directly involved in the assessment process. Decision makers do have regard to reports and country assessments provided by the UNHCR and other international organisations.