

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014**

**IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

**(AE14/288) PROGRAMME – Regional Cooperation and Associated Activities**

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

What are the details of the Governments discussion with Cambodia regarding the transfer of asylum seekers?

Has there been a formal request submitted to the Cambodian Government regarding this venture?

If so, what does the formal request entail?

If not, what is the timeline for formal negotiations regarding this issue?

When can we expect to see an agreement between Cambodia and Australia in regards to asylum seeker transfers? What assurances can the Government provide to ensure that this possible future arrangement will be in line with Australia's international human rights obligations?

*Answer:*

Cambodia is an important bilateral and regional partner on people smuggling issues and a strong partner in immigration cooperation. Australia highly values its cooperation with Cambodia under the Bali Process and the 2002 bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Cooperation in Combatting Irregular Migration, People Smuggling and Trafficking. It would not be appropriate to disclose the details of ongoing bilateral discussions on these matters.