

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/290) PROGRAMME – 4.6: Refugee Status Determination for Offshore Entry Persons

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Mr Bowles spoke in November estimates that DIBP was providing support to Nauru and PNG to assist them with processing applications.
What support is DIBP providing to the Nauruan and PNG governments to assist with refugee status determination processes?
How many DIBP staff are involved in this? How many PNG/Nauruan staff?

Answer:

The Government of Australia provides a package of assistance to the Governments of Nauru and Papua New Guinea (PNG) to build their capacity to assess asylum seeker protection claims including assistance to conduct Refugee Status Determination (RSD) assessments and training and mentoring for Nauru and PNG RSD officers.

Taskforces of up to 10 departmental officers are deployed to Nauru and PNG progressively to provide this assistance.

Nauru and PNG RSD staffing arrangements are a matter for the respective Governments of Nauru and PNG.