

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 May 2007**

**IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

**(173) Output 1.6: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Ludwig asked:

The current MOU between Australia and Nauru (para 3) in part states:

“Australia will ensure that each asylum seeker will be processed and will depart Nauru within as short a time as is reasonably possible...”

- a) Does this still include Australia as the country most likely for resettlement?
- b) Is the Department intending to have this altered in the new MOU?

*Answer:*

- a) No. The MoU between Australia and Nauru has never provided for Australia as the country most likely for resettlement. Australia will seek to resettle refugees to other countries, but does not rule out the possibility of resettlement in Australia.
- b) Negotiations over a new memorandum of understanding are continuing with Nauru.