

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 28 MAY 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(45) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Ellison (L&CA 105) asked:

Page 24 of the PBS refers to the displaced persons program. Can the department provide a breakdown of the increases in actual funding for this program for 2007-08 and projections in the forward estimates? It says there it is a program whose ... activities are funded to stabilise and assist displaced people in the region and thereby reduce the flow of unauthorised arrivals—and that is why I thought it might be border. It continues: The program also supports projects which assist displaced persons to safely return to their country of origin or resettle to third countries. Can you give us some detail on that?

Answer:

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) administers the Displaced Persons Program (DDP) more formally known as *Initiatives to address the situation of refugees and other displaced persons and to promote sustainable returns*.

Funding of the DPP in 2007-08 and forward estimates is as follows:

Budget allocation (\$m) 2007-08 to 2011-12

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-2012
Base funding	5.8	6.536	6.616	6.695	6.842
Additional funding	*2.0	**10.000			
Total	7.8	16.536	6.536	6.536	6.842

* \$2m provided for one year only 'to improve process of effective protection to, and the stabilisation of, refugees and populations displaced by conflict in people smuggling source and transit countries'.

**\$10m provided for one year only to 'help address the protracted situation of displaced Iraqis in neighbouring and transit countries'.

The DPP is part of a broader program of Australia's strategic engagement to promote managed migration and to prevent people smuggling and irregular migration. Projects are typically delivered by organisations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and more recently by Australian non-government organisations.

Projects funded under the DPP must support at least one of the following funding objectives:

- Supporting programs that can reduce the prospect and flow of unauthorised arrivals from source countries;
- Encouraging sustainable voluntary returns of persons no longer in need of protection, including assisting negotiations with source countries on returns and with countries of first asylum on readmission;
- Supporting countries of first asylum to host refugee populations where return is not practicable and/or feasible, including support for resettlement and local integration; and
- Enhancing the protection role of the UNHCR and other relevant agencies in source countries and countries of first asylum.

Projects are delivered by international organisations such as UNHCR and IOM, and more recently by Australian non-government organisations. All projects must be approved by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship.

The additional funding of \$10 million in 2008-09 to assist displaced Iraqis will be spent on projects assisting neighbouring and transit countries, creating protection space and enabling displaced Iraqis outside Iraq to settle with security and dignity pending long term resolution of the situation.