

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0180) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (L&CA 51) asked:

I refer to question on notice 102 from the February estimates in which I asked the department to provide a list of the countries that the Australian government has informed about the regional processing centre. The department was unable to provide a list of countries. Does the department know what countries they actually provided or informed about the regional processing centre?

Answer:

On 6 July 2010 the Prime Minister publicly announced the proposal for a regional processing centre during a speech to the Lowy Institute for International Policy. Australian officials discussed this proposal in a range of fora, including the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, which involves 43 member countries.

Australian diplomatic missions disseminated the Prime Minister's speech to government officials in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brunei, Brussels, Burma, Canada, China, East Timor, Fiji, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Malaysia, Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tarawa, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA, Vanuatu and Vietnam.