

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0215) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash asked:

What is the status of negotiations for any new return agreements to countries for failed asylum seekers? When are they likely to reach resolution?

Answer:

No new formal return agreements are expected to be finalised in the near future. The Department cannot comment on current or future diplomatic negotiations. Internally, we are exploring options for effecting returns to other countries.