

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24/05/2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0732) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Michaelia Cash (written) asked:

How will the decision be made concerning who gets accommodation and where?
Please provide the relevant criteria to be considered.

Answer:

Eligibility for HSS services to Humanitarian Program visa holders is based on a needs assessment. Humanitarian Settlement Service providers are contracted to provide initial settlement services on a needs basis, including where required, placement in short term accommodation and assistance with finding long term accommodation. The standard for HSS services is set out in the HSS contract.

Humanitarian program visa holders, who have family or other links in Australia such as proposers, may receive assistance including accommodation from them. For Special Humanitarian Program entrants service providers undertake a pre-arrival needs assessment of the proposer, to assess their capacity to support the humanitarian entrant. This assessment will include the proposer's capacity to provide accommodation.

The initial settlement location of humanitarian entrants is based on placing them near family or other links, taking account of any special needs they may have and the availability of support services. Those without links or special needs are placed wherever possible in regional locations where support services are available and there is a welcoming community.