

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(BE11/0737) Program 5.1: AMEP / Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees**

Senator Michaelia Cash (Written) asked:

Does the Department have plans to send more entrants to remote and regional areas? If so, where? If not, why not?

*Answer:*

The Department plans to continue to directly settle humanitarian entrants in suitable regional locations.

Humanitarian entrants are directly settled in regional locations which have sufficient population, suitable employment opportunities, available housing and appropriate infrastructure and services.

The Department will continue to settle humanitarian entrants to current settlement locations and changes to the operation of the Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) program offers greater potential for Australia-wide placements of entrants to regional locations. The Department is also in the early stages of identifying new suitable HSS locations, for 2012 onwards.

Current regional locations are:

- Queensland (Cairns, Logan/Gold Coast, Toowoomba and Townsville);
- Victoria (Geelong and Shepparton);
- New South Wales (Albury, Coffs Harbour, Goulburn, Newcastle, Wagga Wagga, and Wollongong);
- Tasmania (Launceston); and
- South Australia (Mount Gambier and Murray Bridge).