

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(BE11/0794) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management**

Senator Brown asked:

- a) The 2011-2012 aid budget indicates that \$65.9 million of official development assistance (ODA) money will be delivered by Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). Please provide a breakdown of ODA-eligible activities and corresponding amounts to be delivered by DIAC.
- b) Can you please provide a breakdown of all ODA-eligible activities (including amounts and implementing agencies) under the Government's border and regional security measures?
- c) Regarding the proposal to establish an off-shore processing centre in PNG, there have been media reports that a deal would involve a development assistance package.
  1. Can you provide a breakdown of the development assistance package that has been discussed/offered to date?
  2. Will this development assistance package be in addition to the aid already allocated to PNG (\$482.3 million)?
  3. Will any ODA money be spent on upgrading detention and related facilities on Manus Island/PNG?
- d) What, if any, of the estimated 216.4 million announced for the refugee swap deal with Malaysia will be counted as ODA?

*Answer:*

- a) Of the \$65.9 million provided to DIAC for ODA eligible activities:
  - \$26.7 million has been budgeted for improving border management capacity for a range of partner countries;
  - \$31.6 million has been budgeted for the management and care of irregular immigrants in Indonesia;
  - \$7.2 million has been budgeted for a number of humanitarian projects aimed at stabilising and supporting displaced persons in a range of countries; and
  - \$0.4 million has been budgeted for grants to communities participating in the Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme.

b) DIAC was funded for two ODA-eligible activities in the 2011-12 Budget under 'Border Security – initiatives to address irregular population flow in source and transit countries':

- Regional Cooperation Agreement with Indonesia - under this measure DIAC will fund the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to provide practical support to irregular migrants intercepted in Indonesia. \$23.8 million has been budgeted over three years.
- Introduction of biometrics into the Sri Lankan passport issuance process – under this measure DIAC will fund the IOM to provide assistance to the Sri Lankan Department of Immigration and Emigration. \$4.9 million has been budgeted over two years.

\* DIAC is unable to provide detail for all other government agencies.

c) No negotiations have taken place on the terms for any development assistance package associated with any agreement to re-establish an assessment centre on Manus Island.

d) The \$216.4 million over four years is the whole of government cost to increase the humanitarian program by 4 000 places as part of the regional cooperation framework arrangement with Malaysia. There is no element of ODA eligibility within the DIAC component of those costs.