

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(BE12/0494) Program 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees**

Senator Cash (L&CA 96) asked:

Provide the list of what is considered when resettling refugees into the community.

*Answer:*

Refugees who have social links in Australia such as family, friends or a proposer will be settled with or near those connections. This provides new arrivals with valuable social and practical support in the early settlement period.

When looking at opportunities to settle humanitarian entrants in regional communities, the department, with the assistance of stakeholders, takes into account a number of key factors, namely:

- the availability of suitable accommodation;
- English language and other education services;
- opportunities to get into employment;
- health services; and
- opportunities to connect with and feel safe in a welcoming community.

Other important factors in a regional town are:

- population size;
- sufficient capacity and infrastructure; and
- availability of other settlement and mainstream services.