

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27- 28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0191) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (L&CA 110) asked:

Senator CASH: Is it lawful for transferees found to be refugees to be accommodated at the current permanent facility on Nauru upon conclusion of their assessment? If so, on what basis?

Mr Bowles: I suppose it is a little hypothetical at the moment because we have not got there. We expect to get some outcomes from the refugee determination process happening on Nauru in coming months. My understanding—and I am happy to take this on notice to confirm—is that they can stay within Manus as long as they have a valid visa.

Answer:

Individuals transferred to Nauru for the purposes of regional processing are granted a Regional Processing Centre visa for the duration of their stay (renewed every three months). Individuals remain eligible for this visa after being determined to be a refugee.

In accordance with the Nauruan *Immigration Regulations 2013*, individuals assessed as refugees must reside in premises notified to the holder by a service provider as being premises set aside for the holder. It is a matter for the Government of Nauru to determine the conditions of their stay in Nauru.