

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27- 28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0193) PROGRAM – 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash (L&CA 112) asked:

Senator CASH: That is particularly in relation to those found to be refugees—not asylum seekers but those found to be refugees.

Dr Southern: I would have to take that on notice to be absolutely correct, but my understanding is that the current arrangement, where they have a visa waiver and are directed to live at a particular place, would continue. But I will confirm that on notice.

Answer:

Individuals transferred to Manus Island are exempt from holding an entry permit pursuant to section 20 of the Papua New Guinea *Migration Act 1978*. It is a matter for the Papua New Guinea Government to determine the conditions of their stay.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian and Papua New Guinea Government for the transfer to and assessment of persons in Papua New Guinea allows individuals found to be refugees to reside in Papua New Guinea until such time as the Australian Government arranges their resettlement.