

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0209) PROGRAM – 5.1: Settlement Services for Migrants and Refugees

Senator Cash (L&CA 123) asked:

Senator CASH: What is the status of the tender previously published on the AusTender website on accommodation, care, welfare and other services for unaccompanied humanitarian minors?

Ms Pope: This is the procurement process that flows from the pilot arrangements and for services to children under 16 years of age. It is in pretender release at the moment and we are expecting to be in a position to release the tender in the not too distant future, but I cannot put an exact time frame on it at the moment.

Senator CASH: The question I was asking was in response to a question that Ms Gambaro asked of Minister O'Connor, who gave a similar answer unfortunately. That was back in February of this year. In fact, he said that the anticipated release date was the third quarter of 2012-13. That has clearly lapsed as well unfortunately. So we are still waiting. What is the delay?

Ms Pope: I am not sure if I could say.

Dr Southern: It is really that there are some probity issues.

Ms Pope: Government processes and probity issues to be resolved.

Senator CASH: What are those government processes and probity issues that need to be resolved?

Ms Pope: Those are weasel words, Senator- you are not supposed to ask what they are!

Senator CASH: You thought I wouldn't pick up on them five minutes before we are about to close!

Ms Pope: I could take that on notice, Senator.

Answer:

The Request for Tender for Accommodation, Care, Welfare and Settlement Services for Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors was published on AusTender on 13 June 2013.