

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0316) PROGRAM –

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

How much has the department paid to the IOM and UNHCR in 2012-13 and how much will it pay them in the forward estimates? What are these payments for?

Answer:

In 2012–13, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) paid the International Organization for Migration (IOM) \$46.0 million; and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) \$9.2 million for various activities. The projected funding for IOM and UNHCR in the forward years is not yet finalised.

IOM activities that were funded by DIAC in 2012-13 include:

- Assisted voluntary returns programs for irregular maritime arrival and non-Irregular Maritime Arrival clients (ongoing)
- Individual reintegration assistance for irregular maritime arrival clients (ongoing)
- Assisted passage, medical and related services for Australian government funded refugee and special humanitarian program entrants (ongoing)
- Australian cultural orientation classes delivered to refugee and special humanitarian entrants who are over five years of age (ongoing)
- Placement of an Associate Expert (Junior Professional Officer position) with IOM in Geneva, Switzerland
- Providing assistance for building the border management capacity of the Governments of Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, East Timor, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Iraq
- Providing care and maintenance for intercepted irregular migrants in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and East Timor

- Support for the operation of the IOM Office in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
- Support to improve conditions, staff training and operations at Indonesian immigration detention facilities
- Regional cooperation arrangement in Indonesia to provide food, accommodation, emergency medical assistance, counselling and transport to asylum seekers intercepted en route to Australia. IOM also provides assistance to voluntary returnees and refers people who raise international protection claims to the UNHCR for assessment
- IOM Circle of Care for Displaced Persons in Indonesia offers life-skills development, social support and educational support for displaced people, especially vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied minors. The project also builds the capacity of local service providers
- Reducing the vulnerabilities of persons displaced to Thailand from Rakhine State, Myanmar, through community outreach and increasing access to social and health services (Phase IV)
- Community stabilisation in Sri Lanka through livelihood support and information campaigns in districts with high concentration of irregular maritime departures to Australia
- Post arrival assistance to returnees from Australia (ongoing) and livelihood assistance to returnees and internally displaced persons in Afghanistan
- Placement of an IOM expert consultant in the Afghan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations to build expertise in the Afghan portfolio
- Implementation of an information campaign in Afghanistan, warning against the dangers of irregular migration

UNHCR activities that were funded by DIAC in 2012-13 include:

- Support for the UNHCR strategy for protection capacity building in the Pacific
- Placement of an Associate Protection Officer (Junior Professional Officer position) with UNHCR in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Displaced Persons Program projects in Malaysia, Bangladesh, Jordan and Afghanistan.
- Support for the resettlement of 1000 refugees under the Transfer and Resettlement Arrangement (ongoing)

- Facilitation of additional resettlement referrals for the increased refugee component of the Australian Humanitarian Program in the Middle East, Asia and Africa