

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0464) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

How would the department determine how long a pregnant Afghani woman who arrived via a boat she boarded in Indonesia would have to wait on Nauru – how does the no advantage test apply to her? What if she were also travelling with a minor? Or an Iranian man with a heart condition who flew into Malaysia before boarding a boat to Australia? What if he already had a relative living in the country?

Answer:

'No Advantage' is a principle, not a test. At its most basic level, the 'no advantage' principle seeks to ensure that asylum seekers who circumvent regular migration arrangements and arrive in Australia by boat do not benefit over those who claim protection and seek asylum through regular migration pathways. The principle will be applied in a consistent manner.