

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(147) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Nettle asked:

1. Are people under residence determination allowed to work?
2. What level of income support are they receiving?
3. What kind of schooling are children entitled to and are they allowed on extended school excursions?

Answer:

1. Unlawful non-citizens by law are not permitted to work.
2. The Department works with Non-Government Organisations, such as the Australian Red Cross, to make sure that when clients are placed in residence determination arrangements in the community, they are properly supported. The NGOs are funded by the Department to source housing for the families and allow payment of their bills and other living expenses. Generally the Australian Red Cross is provided with a living allowance for each family, in addition to accommodation costs, which is in line with payments made under the Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme (89% of Centrelink New Start or Youth Allowance).
3. The children are able to attend local schools in the community. This includes participation in school excursions. Where an excursion involves an overnight stay, prior approval from local DIMIA staff would ordinarily be required.