

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(284) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

On what date did the Government first commence discussions with charity groups and churches about alternatives to residence determination?

Answer:

- The Government announced the expansion of its existing Residence Determination program on 18 October 2010 to move significant numbers of unaccompanied minors and vulnerable family groups out of immigration detention facilities and into community-based accommodation.
- The first formal meeting with charity groups and churches was held on 10 November 2010. There has also been ongoing informal consultation leading up to and since the announcement in October 2010, such as with the Minister's advisory group, the Council for Immigration Services and Status Resolution (CISSR), which includes community representation.
- The Residence Determination Reference Group has been established and first met on 23 November 2010.
- Stakeholder engagement continues to support the implementation of the Residence Determination expansion.