

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: DATE HERE

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0186) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Michaela Cash (L&CA 19) asked:

In relation to the Malaysia Solution, confirm the amount budgeted for, to be provided to IOM and UNHCR.

Answer:

The Government made a high level provision in the 2011-12 Budget for estimated costs associated with the transfer of 800 Irregular Maritime Arrivals to Malaysia under the terms of the Malaysia Arrangement. The expense estimate for administered funds was \$65.7 million over four years.

Implementation of the Malaysia Arrangement would have required funds to be made available to relevant agencies, particularly the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for the care and management of these people once they had arrived in Malaysia. The allocation of administered funds was to have been finalised following the signing of funding agreements with the UNHCR and IOM which would have enabled these organisations to deliver the services referred to in the formal arrangement signed between Australia and Malaysia on 25 July 2011.

As a consequence of the High Court decision in respect of offshore processing, funding agreements with the IOM and UNHCR were not entered into and no specific amount was allocated to the IOM or UNHCR. The administered funds were returned to the Federal Budget as part of the Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook savings measures announced on 29 November 2011, after deduction of costs that had been incurred.