

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 OCTOBER 2012

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(SE12/0532) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Cash (written):

- How much is the Red Cross being funded by DIAC, in total, to manage the government's border failures?
- Are there contracts in place?
- Are those contracts public?
- What is the value of each of the contracts and have any variations been made?
- Who has the contracts and is the Red Cross able to sub-contact?
- How are these contracts tendered?
- Who makes the decision to give a contract to an individual or company?
- What accountability mechanisms are in place?
- What was the value of those contracts in 2011-12 and for 2012-13?

*Answers:*

The Australian Red Cross is contracted by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) to administer the delivery of services under the Community Assistance Support (CAS) program and the Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme (ASAS). The contract for provision of these services includes two other DIAC programs, being Community Detention and Restoring Family Links.

The contract with the Red Cross commenced on 1 January 2012 and is in place until 31 March 2014.

The contract is published on AusTender. The public information includes:

- The value of the contract and any variation
- Sub-contracting arrangements

The contracts with the Red Cross have not been tendered. Each contract has been finalised as an exempt procurement through clause 2.7 of the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines in place at the time.

The department has specific delegation requirements for spending of public money and procurement processes. These prescribe that a financial delegate of the department must approve the commitment of public money prior to a

purchase or commitment being entered into with a supplier or contractor. This approval must be given prior to a contract being signed.

The department implements robust contract management and quality assurance processes to ensure accountability in the delivery of all services contracted to the Red Cross.