

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0584) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Cocos (Keeling) Islands: I refer to comments made by Brian Lacy, Administrator of Cocos Island, on ABC's AM Programme on 14th June 2012 where he said "There was a meeting held in Canberra between representatives of the various Commonwealth agencies involved in the operational response to arrivals of asylum seekers from Sri Lanka on the Cocos Keeling Island and the purpose of that meeting was to develop a draft of a coordinated whole of government action plan to apply in the event of future arrivals so there is options being considered at this stage to alleviate the impact of these sorts of arrivals on such a small community as Cocos Keeling Island." Has that draft action plan been developed? Are we able to have a copy please?

Answer:

The department continues to work collaboratively with the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport, Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, the Australian Federal Police, the local community and other stakeholders on the implementation of a whole of government response to irregular maritime arrivals on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

As of 15 October 2012, an action plan is in the process of being drafted, however the department is unable to provide a copy of the document as it is being drafted by the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport.