

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0611) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Annual Report - Pressure on Settlement Services (pg. 235): 'Single clients are among the most challenging cohorts from a service delivery perspective, particularly in light of extremely tight rental market across the country'. What does this mean? Are increased placements of IMAs driving up rents? Is it resulting in more homeless or in distress IMAs or other humanitarian visa holders?

Answer:

Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) providers report challenges in managing clients' expectations about the type of accommodation that can be afforded in the current rental market. Many single clients may wish to reside alone, which in the current rental market will be unaffordable for most clients. HSS providers successfully place most single clients in shared accommodation, often with others who have arrived in Australia through similar pathways.

The HSS program features a 'no exits into homelessness' policy, where residence in long-term accommodation is required before a client may be exited from the program.