

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0064) PROGRAM – 3.1: Border Management

Senator Singh (L&CA 119) asked:

Senator SINGH: Regarding people who in the last government were on protection visas and were vulnerable people, what access did they have thereafter for settlement in Australia? Ms Pope: The answer is: to humanitarian settlement services. Mr Bowles: We can take that on notice. Once they are granted a protection visa they would have access to the normal humanitarian support service arrangements and go from there. In the previous arrangements, they were on humanitarian support services. Under the TPV arrangements, they will have work rights but they will have access to the Centrelink benefit arrangements. That is the only difference between the two.

Answer:

Under the Administrative Arrangements Order made on 18 September 2013, responsibility for humanitarian settlement services transferred to the Department of Social Services. The Department of Social Services have provided the following response: Permanent Protection visa (PPV) holders have access to a range of settlement support services including the Settlement Grants Programme, the Translating and Interpreting Service and, for those who have exceptional needs, the Complex Case Support Programme. While PPV holders did historically have access to Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS), most PPV holders became ineligible for HSS support following a change to HSS eligibility rules that came into effect on 30 August 2013. This change affected Illegal Maritime Arrivals who have lived in the community on a Bridging visa E or who have resided in Community Detention, and other asylum seekers who lived in the community. The change did not affect Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minors and most people granted a PPV in an Immigration Detention Facility or Centre also remained eligible for the HSS program.