

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0114) PROGRAMME – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Hanson-Young (Written) asked:

How does the Department ensure that it has discharged its legal and moral responsibilities under Article 33 of the Refugee convention prior to returning people, particularly those subject to enhanced screening?

Answer:

The department takes Australia's international protection obligations seriously. The department will not return a person from Australia where they have been found to engage Australia's protection obligations or where their reasons for coming to Australia warrant further consideration under a protection status determination.

The department's processes incorporate a number of procedural safeguards to ensure the department can discharge its legal and moral responsibilities under Article 33.