

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0393) PROGRAMME – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

How will the Department and Government expect persons on a TPV to maintain their safety and that of their family when they have no access to family reunion and will lose protection if they travel outside of Australia?

Answer:

Australia is committed to the system for the international protection of refugees consistent with the values and principles of the *1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol* (the Refugees Convention). This includes for Temporary Protection Visa (TPV) holders.

An IMA or unauthorised air arrival becomes separated from their family when they choose to travel to Australia without them, Australia has not caused that separation.

TPV holders are however able to voluntarily depart Australia and return to their family at any time, and may particularly wish to do so where circumstances in their country of origin have changed.

This restriction on re-entry is designed to maintain the integrity of Australia's borders.