

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
1	1. Would a pilot of a private/community sponsorship program for refugees be feasible?	brief submission stating that they have sponsored refugees from Dadaab in the past and that they welcome the pilot	yes, believes that the Australian Government could operate a similar Program to that of Canada.		A pilot of this sort is definitely feasible, given the positive response of the mainstream Australian public to the proposal that citizens provide places in their homes for asylum seekers on Bridging Visas. There is also evidence for Canada that a scheme like this could work well.	yes	welcomes scheme. Believe that sponsoring bodies would not hesitate to sign an agreement/undertaking to play their specified role in supporting the resettlement of refugees.
2	2. Are there any alternative or additional measures that the Government could consider in order to increase Australia's Humanitarian Program without a significant budgetary impact?				A concentration on refugees from groups which have proven to require very little settlement assistance, such as the Burmese, could increase numbers without significantly increasing costs. This option would, however, go against the principle of providing resettlement places to those most in need.	Some of the foreign aid Australia provides can be used to provide means for the citizens, to encourage them starting the country they reside in. For example ^s have to leave Northern Iraq due to financial condition and the turmoil at the time. Aid will help provide work opportunities which will help reduce or stop refugees of the area seeking migration and will encourage them to return to their own towns and villages.	
3							

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
1							
	3. Who should be able to sponsor refugees under a pilot?		<p>*SAHS - incorporated organisations that have signed formal agreements with the Australian Government.</p> <p>*Community organisations - can hold up to 2 cases per year; and</p> <p>*Groups of five - must be PR's or citizens</p>		<p>* In the first instance, any Australian permanent resident should be considered.</p> <p>*Other considerations should be a satisfactory police clearance, proven experience with and understanding of Australian systems and culture, and at least functional English</p> <p>* Volunteers identified through an advertising campaign</p>	individuals, community organisations or combination of both	
4							

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
1							
	4. What type of vetting or checking should be required for sponsors wishing to sponsor a refugee under a pilot?				<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Police clearance* Evidence of English proficiency* Evidence of successful settlement (for people who have resettled or been resettled in Australia* Evidence that the Potential sponsor understands the implications and responsibilities of settlement* Evidence that the potential sponsor has the financial capacity to successfully sponsor	current government vetting and checking procedures with emphasis on financial means and legal aspect of sponsors will be sufficient.	
5							

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
1							
6	5. How should potential applicants be identified for sponsorship and prioritised for visa processing under the pilot?		*BV holders - particularly 'stateless' BV's *people with refugee claims that are in Indonesia - this would reduce incentive to get on boat.			Sponsorship parties may submit proposal through Immigration Departments in Australia. Priorities should be based on potential of the refugees in building their future in Australia - children of school age and preferable with skills partners and adults.	would want to sponsor people on the advice of headquarters in Pakistan, who identify the lost vulnerable applicants on the basis of persecution suffered by them.
7	6. What involvement should community organisations, UNHCR and the Australian Government have in identifying refugees for sponsorship?				*Continuation of the present scheme of identification for resettlement of offshore refugees who will sponsor them *Addition of those identified as linked through family members in Australia who will sponsor them	it is expected the Australia Government and UNHCR have established criteria identifying refugees for sponsorship. However consulting with community organisation with their knowledge and experience will complement their task.	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
1							
8	7. What responsibilities should sponsors have and what undertakings should they be required to give?				<p>* Responsibilities currently undertaken by HSS providers</p> <p>* Undertaking to provide services currently provided under HSS</p>	The sponsors must understand the financial commitments they are undertaking, and be prepared to provide essential settlement requirement such as travel, residence and orientation expenses.	The refugees should generally pay for their own medical checks and travel costs. However if they need help with this the sponsor will assist. The refugee will be received at the airport by our association. They will be provided free boarding and lodging for the first few weeks until they can find their own. they are provided with orientation and information concerning the benefits provided by settlement services, the opening of bank accounts, giving information about Medicare, being a travel guide and showing them how to join English classes, educational and VET courses. Group will sign an undertaking that they will do the above without any financial assistance from DIAC.
9	8. Should the level of support by sponsors, and length of time it should continue, be defined?				Yes, Services defined as under current HSS contract provisions. Length of time up to two years after arrival	limited to 24 months	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
1							
	9. Should a sponsored refugee be eligible for HSS services?				no	no	
10							
	10. What government services should the refugee be able to access once they are in Australia?				All services available to permanent residents, as well as SGP and AMEP	Medicare, PBS and basic education expenses subsidies	Centrelink and Medicare will continue to be provided
11							

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
1							
	11.How should sponsors be monitored by Government or a third party to ensure their responsibilities to the sponsored refugee are being met?				*A contract with KPI's and a timeline *Checks of contractual compliance every two months after arrival	periodical reporting and checking mechanisms, maybe in quarterly or semi-annual intervals.	Government may monitor the discharge of our responsibilities as a sponsoring association,
12							

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
1							
13	12. What is the most appropriate way for the Government to ensure that sponsors comply with their sponsorship obligations?				*A contract with KPI's and a timeline *Checks of contractual compliance every two months after arrival *a helpline widely publicised to sponsored refugees available in all languages for sponsored refugees to report concerns	binding undertaking stipulating all the obligations of the sponsors including evidence and checking mechanisms	
14	13. What role could the payment of a bond play in ensuring that sponsors adequately provide for sponsored refugees?				contractual compliance enforced with financial sanction for non-compliance	a bond is an effective incentive and should play a pivotal role.	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
15	14. Should sponsored refugees exit the scheme after a certain period?				yes, after 2 years	yes, with 24 months	
16	15. What, if any, 'safety net' features should be included in a private/community sponsorship model?				if sponsorship fails, based on contractual compliance and/if feedback from the sponsored refugee substantiated by other evidence, the sponsored refugee could be moved to another sponsor or referred to the HSS program.	yes. The government may consider the requirement for a second or multisponsor under the program	
17	16. What measures could the Government implement to help sponsors meet their sponsorship commitments?				Training for sponsorship (s. 22(1)(a)(ii) willing to provide training)	Consider providing temporary relief or concession in case of unforeseen financial or other hardships that the sponsor may be faced with	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
1							
18	17. Should there be any sanctions if sponsors fail to meet their responsibilities?				no	yes	
19	18. Should a sponsored refugee be able to change sponsors, if their initial sponsor fails to meet their responsibilities?				yes	yes	

	A	H	I	J	K
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
1	1. Would a pilot of a private/community sponsorship program for refugees be feasible?	scheme has merit, but there are many potential obstacles that would require significant planning to avoid.	welcomes program and are happy to support the substance of the proposal in principles, recognising the department may be best placed to design the parameters of the pilot in detail.	views the program as a way to sponsor orphans from Indonesia. Australians that are able to show a significant connection with a young child or young person should be able to apply for a visa for that child to reside with them in Australia. The relevant state would conduct checks on the sponsor. the gov would provide Medicare, educational services. Sponsor would financially provide for child until they are 18.	feasible but must be designed and implemented with care. Will need evaluation. Should encompass both regional and metro. - considers saving to be around \$15,000 for the gov in the following areas: airfares, household furnishings, whitegoods, initial HSS services, routine SGP services
2	2. Are there any alternative or additional measures that the Government could consider in order to increase Australia's Humanitarian Program without a significant budgetary impact?	If Australia considered hostel style accommodation for asylum seekers as they have in Australia, the cost would be saved on mandatory detention and could be diverted towards speeding up the process of assessing people claims for asylum or increasing the number of offshore people they accept.			as an alternative, or an additional measure that could be implemented to increase the intake, services could be provided through public sector organisation as they are now but funded through public donation or subscription (similar to child sponsorship programs). Donations could be in kind or directed to a particular service
3					

	A	H	I	J	K
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
1					
4	3. Who should be able to sponsor refugees under a pilot?	Community organisations, NGO's and well resourced individuals. These organisations and individuals should have some level of experience with asylum seekers/refugees or be trained at their own cost in order to be prepared to take on the role of a sponsor.			The approach taken by Canada seems reasonable. * larger organisations with greater resources who sign formal sponsorship agreements - could be charities, ethnic groups, corporations with adequate human resources *smaller community groups based in one location - could sponsor small numbers, These groups could sign an undertaking - raise money from community donations *individuals of small groups of individuals *gov should draw on groups with settlement experience.

	A	H	I	J	K
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
1					
5	4. What type of vetting or checking should be required for sponsors wishing to sponsor a refugee under a pilot?	police checks - particularly to limit risk of paedophiles and people involved in human trafficking.			<p>*groups already known to Gov will require less checking - they could produce annual reports, financial statements and evidence of their dealings with refugees.</p> <p>* smaller regional/community based organisation could be required to show: registration of the organisation as an association, corp. etc, copy of their constitutions, policies for settlement, evidence of financial viability or access to finance such as loans from IOM, DGR status, police checks, working with children checks, evidence of, or proposals for cultural diversity courses, training for volunteers in working with children, and trauma victims.</p> <p>* Individuals or familles: evidence of financial status, police checks, personal references, evidence or, or proposals for cultural diversity courses, training for volunteers in working with children, and trauma victims.</p>

	A	H	I	J	K
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
1					
6	5. How should potential applicants be identified for sponsorship and prioritised for visa processing under the pilot?	people already identified by UNHCR as eligible for resettlement except where it is a family member proosing applicants and then their case should be assessed unless the UNHCR has already identified them as requirement resettlement.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Australian gov in consultation with UNHCR * people who have been on waiting lists. * individuals and organisation should be able to nominate specific applicants - as they do under SHP, who have been identified as suitable candidates for that particular * in part s. 22(1)(a)(ii) have given preference to single mothers with children . However another option could be to take into account education, work and other aspirations. *family reunion is desirable, but should not decrease the intake. Priority should be given to those who have been in camps the longest and where there are you children. *selection should not be based on financial means or employability as this would undermine the fundamental purpose of the Hum program.
7	6. What involvement should community organisations, UNHCR and the Australian Government have in identifying refugees for sponsorship?	controlled by Gov. however is a community group has a connection with a refugee that has been identified by the UNHCR as eligible for resettlement then they could specifically request to sponsor that person.			

	A	H	I	J	K
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
1					
8	7. What responsibilities should sponsors have and what undertakings should they be required to give?	Family members who are sponsors would not be required to have the same level of financial responsibility as community organisations or others as they are likely still establishing themselves. Community organisations and other individuals should be required to meet at the airport, assist with setting up bank accounts, centrelink, Medicare, school enrolment etc. Assistance finding suitable housing for the refugee with back up assistance available through HSS if required.			<p>*all potential sponsors to produce a proposal with details of numbers, accommodations, services etc to be provided.</p> <p>* role should be similar to SHP program</p> <p>* Sponsor should: provide pre-departure support, orientation, organise travel, pay fares,</p> <p>* accommodations arranged, furniture could be donated by community - there could be an agreement with the refugee that they will, overtime, refund the airfares and, make some contributions towards cost of initial rent and furnishings</p> <p>* s. 22(1)(a)(ii) would try and find accommodation that is similar cost to the rent assistance provided by centrelink. Accommodation would be in refugees name, but arranged by s</p> <p>*providing assistance with banking, shopping, schools, AMEP, transport.</p> <p>*arranging counselling, medical checks and other health services.</p> <p>*arranging enrolment with employment agencies where feasible and assisting nominees with job seeking, driving instruction and technical training.</p>
9	8. Should the level of support by sponsors, and length of time it should continue, be defined?	yes			not less than 6 months and up to 2 years. Needs based.

	A	H	I	J	K
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
1					
10	9. Should a sponsored refugee be eligible for HSS services?	some HSS should be available as a back up if the sponsor is not able to fulfil responsibilities.			s. 22(1)(a)(ii) will work with HSS providers and share responsibilities to ensure optimum care. s. 22(1)(a)(ii) could assume day to day tasks provided by HSS and Northern Settlement Services, thus reducing costs. HSS and SGP be used to supplement sponsor, particular for torture and trauma victims
11	10. What government services should the refugee be able to access once they are in Australia?	all services the PR gets. Also the purchase of household goods at cost price from HSS.			*AMEP (520 hours + access to childcare) *school ESL and school education orientation programs * Medicare * STARTTS (nsw) *TIS *Complex case support services *centrelink funding - the same as what SHP gets * possible special refugee benefit and then after a year go onto normal centrelink

	A	H	I	J	K
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
1					
	11.How should sponsors be monitored by Government or a third party to ensure their responsibilities to the sponsored refugee are being met?	refugee should be aware of a settlement service that they can contact if they have a problem with their sponsor. Maybe a DIAC worker would be in contact with the refugee once every 1-2 months to assess how it is going.			<ul style="list-style-type: none">* periodic reporting against specific benchmarks.*spot checks of sponsor* feedback from recipients* monitoring similar to 457 visas. Similar obligations and sanctions on sponsors of refugees could be imposed as with 457.*if organisation does not meet requirements, it should be advised that it can no longer sponsor. New sponsor could be arranged.*
12					

	A	H	I	J	K
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a) (ii) (a)(ii)			
13	12. What is the most appropriate way for the Government to ensure that sponsors comply with their sponsorship obligations?	follow up			* helpline for sponsors to get support * training by gov
14	13. What role could the payment of a bond play in ensuring that sponsors adequately provide for sponsored refugees?	a bond maybe a way to encourage community organisation and non related individuals, however this would be based on the sponsor having provided satisfactory effort not necessarily their 'success' in assisting the refugee. Family members who sponsor should not have to provide a bond.			* bond not appropriate *consideration could be given to requiring sponsors to contribute in advance to a fund which could be drawn on to finance some of the settlement services. * maybe in form of trust fund * this would ensure adequate resources are available for settlement.

	A	H	I	J	K
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
15	14. Should sponsored refugees exit the scheme after a certain period?	there should be a limit, the same as there is a limit for HSS providers.			yes between 6-24 months. On needs basis
16	15. What, if any, 'safety net' features should be included in a private/community sponsorship model?	HSS services should be available as a back up			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * possibly contribution to a fund, as outlined above would act as safety net. * there would still be access to Medicare and other minimal benefits. * if sponsor could not provide, additional services can be provided by new sponsor or gov.
17	16. What measures could the Government implement to help sponsors meet their sponsorship commitments?	ensuring that the sponsor is adequately prepared for the role they are committing to. They will need a suitable place to contact if they are having difficulties meeting their obligations or they need advice.			

	A	H	I	J	K
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
18	17. Should there be any sanctions if sponsors fail to meet their responsibilities?	if there is a bond, sanction of not receiving some or all of the bond back, should only be used If the sponsor has wilfully neglected their duties, rather than been unable to fulfil them dies to circumstances beyond their control.			
19	18. Should a sponsored refugee be able to change sponsors, if their initial sponsor fails to meet their responsibilities?	yes, or could be assisted by local HSS provider.			yes

	A	L	M	N	O
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
2	1. Would a pilot of a private/community sponsorship program for refugees be feasible?	<p>s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p> <p>after the founders had several years of working with Canada's PSR Program, welcoming and settling sponsored refugees.</p> <p>s. 22(1)(a)(ii) and its affiliated network of nine refugee support groups across Australia have been sponsoring and settling refugees in this way s. 22(1)(a)(ii) and this has been achieved without any Government funding. It is a very successful program, and has grown enormously, with huge future potential for expansion, and also has an excellent record of helping refugees into work in their new community, through local networks.</p>	<p>yes, but there are a number of risks.</p> <p>* accountability is a problem for church groups and African sponsors refugees - not clear idea on responsibilities of sponsoring refugee, provide incorrect information to refugees</p> <p>* will the refugees be able to get loans ?</p> <p>* not clear how sponsorship will reduce reliance on government support</p> <p>* goodwill in community can not be taken for granted - community groups need support</p> <p>* need to develop strategies to ensure that the refugees will learn English and get skills faster than under to current program.</p>	yes, support principle. Small pilot, 5-10 sponsoring organisations	<p>yes, as long as resources are allocated for planning, implementation and evaluation.</p> <p>High risk venture</p> <p>* would only be cost neutral if refugee's were not entitled to income support and settlement support.</p>
3	2. Are there any alternative or additional measures that the Government could consider in order to increase Australia's Humanitarian Program without a significant budgetary impact?	It is important to engage business and corporations in supporting Australia's refugee program, bringing together community and corporate sectors in partnership. This can be of benefit both financially and in the wider area of work opportunity for new Australians.			

	A	L	M	N	O
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
4	3. Who should be able to sponsor refugees under a pilot?	<p>Ex-refugees now in Australia should always be able to sponsor direct family members, as it is vital that families be reunited, bringing much better settlement outcomes.</p> <p>It is very important that all other sponsors of refugees be part of a registered settlement group of five or more committed members. It is vital that training, and understanding of the refugee experience are given to those working directly with refugees. Helping new arrivals in all aspects of settlement and community integration is a very responsible undertaking, and no single person should be able to sponsor as an individual.</p>		<p>sponsors need financial resources and the ability/capacity to assist refugees to settle.</p> <p>* organisations - faith based, humanitarian, community groups.</p> <p>* important to note that some groups may have more resources than others. IE - Karen's community have said that they can provide airfares and medical checks, accommodation, household goods and jobs, whilst Tamils say that they can provide assistance with accommodation and basic needs but finding a job would difficult.</p> <p>* individuals/ families - would require an adequate safety net. - would need adequate financial resources - not feasible for individuals in process of settlement</p> <p>* employer/community group partnership - large employers could be potential sponsors. Government could provided incentive for employers to find work for refugees.</p>	<p>pilot could model as many potential models as possible.</p> <p>*individuals, community groups, and registered organisations</p>

	A	L	M	N	O
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
5	4. What type of vetting or checking should be required for sponsors wishing to sponsor a refugee under a pilot?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* police checks <p>It is vital that there is a central office to oversee this Program, to provide ongoing mentoring, advice and assistance to groups. The central office must be a community refugee organisation, directly linked to the relevant DIAC office.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">* financial viability* demonstrated understanding of and experience in refugee settlement* demonstrate how they would be able to support refugee for 6 months* police checks/working with children* plan for accommodation* plan for settlement services to be provided by sponsor* plan for how sponsor will manage breakdown in relationship* show how they will link refugee to employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* financial viability* sponsor has time to assist refugee* sponsor had nominated personal t assist refugee* sponsor is committed for the duration of the sponsorship period.

	A	L	M	N	O
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
6	5. How should potential applicants be identified for sponsorship and prioritised for visa processing under the pilot?	2. Sponsorship of UNHCR registered refugees, who have spent many years in camps without hope, should be a priority, with a focus on women at risk and their children. In our experience, families and women with children settle well generally, compared to single men who are more mobile and less likely to stay in the community.		refugees must: * meet convention definition * undergo the same health/identity etc checks as other refugees * considered under offshore processes and criteria two main groups: 1. family reunion: split families be prioritised 2. individuals with high level of capacity to gain independence.	pilot: 202 - split family
7	6. What involvement should community organisations, UNHCR and the Australian Government have in identifying refugees for sponsorship?				selection should be based on eligibly criteria

	A	L	M	N	O
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
8	7. What responsibilities should sponsors have and what undertakings should they be required to give?			<ul style="list-style-type: none">* HSS would be taken on by sponsors* eligibly for other government services limited* responsible for care, accomodation, settlement assistance and support for first 6 months* cost of pre-arrival medical checks, airfares/travel to Aus, reception on arrival*reception on arrival, accommodation, furnishings, financial support, mobile phone, settlement support, linking to government services - centrelink/Medicare, education,	<p>responsibilities similar to those of HSS provides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* important to note that there must be a legal requirement to provide these services* discretionary AOS's have failed in the past*mechanism needs to be created to ensure support for new arrivals
9	8. Should the level of support by sponsors, and length of time it should continue, be defined?			6-12 months	depends on refugee needs

	A	L	M	N	O
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
10	9. Should a sponsored refugee be eligible for HSS services?			no	no - however this will result in a two tiered program.
11	10. What government services should the refugee be able to access once they are in Australia?			medicare, AMEP, JSA, schools and tafe, public transport concession * would not be eligible for centrelink on arrival - full supported by sponsor for six months, then if not working eligible for reduced centrelink for 18 months - after 2 years able to access all services	medicare public housing AMEP JSA SGP and CCS

	A	L	M	N	O
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
12	11.How should sponsors be monitored by Government or a third party to ensure their responsibilities to the sponsored refugee are being met?			robust monitoring and evaluation process. Monitoring agency can collect and analyse data on sponsors.	legal obligation for sponsors to provide assistance. * sponsors and refugees should be able to contact DIAC if they have any concerns

	A	L	M	N	O
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
13	12. What is the most appropriate way for the Government to ensure that sponsors comply with their sponsorship obligations?				monitoring application and approval processes need to be thorough
14	13. What role could the payment of a bond play in ensuring that sponsors adequately provide for sponsored refugees?				could provide financial safety net - but would be prohibitive for individuals and many community organisations. Could be done under AOS

	A	L	M	N	O
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
15	14. Should sponsored refugees exit the scheme after a certain period?			6- 12 months	
16	15. What, if any, 'safety net' features should be included in a private/community sponsorship model?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * guarantor's for sponsors * CCS available for complex cases * SGP * HSS provider could be used to support refugee is sponsor fails * 	bond system
17	16. What measures could the Government implement to help sponsors meet their sponsorship commitments?				clear program guidelines information sessions for sponsors training for sponsors amended version of AUSCO for sponsored refugees

	A	L	M	N	O
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
18	17. Should there be any sanctions if sponsors fail to meet their responsibilities?				
19	18. Should a sponsored refugee be able to change sponsors, if their initial sponsor fails to meet their responsibilities?				yes

	A	P	Q	R	S	T
	Questions	s. 22(1) (a)(ii)				
1						
	1. Would a pilot of a private/community sponsorship program for refugees be feasible?	yes -but a number of challenges		yes	merit in proposal	endorse proposal - especially as it could help those waiting for family reunion. Keen for program to go ahead ASAP
2						
	2. Are there any alternative or additional measures that the Government could consider in order to increase Australia's Humanitarian Program without a significant budgetary impact?			there will always be costs - any increased number will mean increased costs		
3						

	A	P	Q	R	S	T
1	Questions	s. 22(1) (a)(ii)				
4	3. Who should be able to sponsor refugees under a pilot?	* family members seeking family reunion * volunteer and community groups * regional groups with employment needs		people with certain amount of money/assets so that they could be able to provide adequate support.	ethnic communities and volunteer groups some capacity for groups of individuals and families to sponsor. Preference for organisations outside capital city hot spots	

	A	P	Q	R	S	T
1	Questions	s. 22(1) (a)(ii)				
5	4. What type of vetting or checking should be required for sponsors wishing to sponsor a refugee under a pilot?			police checks, reference checks, interview and training for suitability and explanation about expectations for their role as sponsors	financial viability	

	A	P	Q	R	S	T
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
6	5. How should potential applicants be identified for sponsorship and prioritised for visa processing under the pilot?	* women at risk, family reunion,		the most vulnerable - women, children, older people, those with least opportunity to come here otherwise	active areas of conflict should be taken in order to establish priorities s. 22(1)(a)(ii) could be able to identify refugees without prospect of local integration split family - could include family member ineligible for SHP and extended family members dependant on relatives in Australia	
7	6. What involvement should community organisations, UNHCR and the Australian Government have in identifying refugees for sponsorship?			UNHCR should indentify them		

	A	P	Q	R	S	T
1	Questions	s. 22(1) (a)(ii)				
8	7. What responsibilities should sponsors have and what undertakings should they be required to give?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * social and some orientation support * cost of airfare - maybe additional support of loan * sponsors need to demonstrate that they have connections to settlement agencies * accommodation - not essential but not desirable * sponsors should not have to provide income support 		assistance with secure housing, linkage to English classes, health services, community support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * need to be clearly set out in program guidelines - could be modelled on current SHP or by those carried out by CRSS groups on past. - 	
9	8. Should the level of support by sponsors, and length of time it should continue, be defined?			2 years - more intensive upfront and reduced over time. Should be clearly stated the types and the level of support provided at these different stages.		

	A	P	Q	R	S	T
1	Questions	s. 22(1) (a)(ii)				
10	9. Should a sponsored refugee be eligible for HSS services?			no		
11	10. What government services should the refugee be able to access once they are in Australia?	centrelink,		centrelink, medicare, full work rights, AMEP, HECS		

	A	P	Q	R	S	T
1	Questions	s. 22(1) (a)(ii)				
12	11.How should sponsors be monitored by Government or a third party to ensure their responsibilities to the sponsored refugee are being met?			an independent oiganisation should be established to do this	regular audits by case officer and regular reporting requirements on sponsors	

	A	P	Q	R	S	T
1	Questions	s. 22(1) (a)(ii)				
13	12. What is the most appropriate way for the Government to ensure that sponsors comply with their sponsorship obligations?			an independent organisation should be established to meet with both sponsor and sponsored person to verify the support claims	training and support	
14	13. What role could the payment of a bond play in ensuring that sponsors adequately provide for sponsored refugees?			yes, have a bond that could be drawn upon to fund support to the person sponsored if the relationship breaks. - could be a minimum of \$5000	the specification of a bond could play an important role in ensuring that sponsors adequately provide for sponsored refugees.	

	A	P	Q	R	S	T
1	Questions	s. 22(1)s (a)(ii) 2				
15	14. Should sponsored refugees exit the scheme after a certain period?			yes, after 2 years		
16	15. What, if any, 'safety net' features should be included in a private/community sponsorship model?	HSS knowing who to turn to if problems arise in relationship/services being delivered		bond, independent organisation monitoring/reviewing support provided	hotline for refugees to contact if they have concerns. HSS as a back up. No refugee should be disadvantaged by failures of a sponsor	
17	16. What measures could the Government implement to help sponsors meet their sponsorship commitments?	training		provide information sessions and training to ensure that sponsors have realistic expectations about the resources they need. Mediation and consulting services	case officer/helpline	

	A	P	Q	R	S	T
1	Questions	s. 22(1) (a)(ii)				
18	17. Should there be any sanctions if sponsors fail to meet their responsibilities?			loss of bond		
19	18. Should a sponsored refugee be able to change sponsors, if their initial sponsor fails to meet their responsibilities?			yes, with transfer of responsibility		

	A	U	V	W	X
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
1	1. Would a pilot of a private/community sponsorship program for refugees be feasible?	yes	yes, if there are realistic guidelines and eligibility requirements not feasible if general community do not adhere to scrutiny of eligibility requirements.		<p>*the proposed pilot program should take into account that the capacity of communities to support refugees varies greatly across Australia, particularly in regional areas</p> <p>*Initial consultation indicates that a number of RDA committees may be interested in canvassing the possibility of their regions participating in the refugee sponsorship program DIAC is proposing, however, further details on the proposed pilot are required. s. 22(1)(a)(ii) would be able to engage further with the RDA network upon the public release of information.</p> <p>*s. 22(1)(a)(ii) considers that it would be advisable to consider the budgetary risks associated with increasing the number of refugees accepted into Australia based on the expectation that the refugees that take part in such a sponsorship program will necessarily require reduced financial and institutional support.</p> <p>*s. 22(1)(a)(ii) considers that the Government should continue to play a role in assisting the settlement of refugees irrespective of whether they are participating in a sponsorship program or not</p> <p>*it would need to be acknowledged that a certain set of characteristics are strong indicators of a refugee's likely successful resettlement with limited access to government support services. These characteristics which would include sound mental and physical health, strong English speaking skills, and skills and an employment history which would enable the maintenance of employment beyond their sponsorship period</p>
2	2. Are there any alternative or additional measures that the Government could consider in order to increase Australia's Humanitarian Program without a significant budgetary impact?	cost of community based detention must be weighed against current cost of mandatory detentions,			
3					

	A	U	V	W	X
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
1					
	3. Who should be able to sponsor refugees under a pilot?	community groups, NGO's and church agencies who have current knowledge of the plight of refugees and some involvements in supporting them in detention centres or when they obtain visas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Service Clubs e.g.: s. 22(1)(a)(iii)• Church groups – non fundamentalist• Corporate/Industry Sponsors – corporate giving arm• Philanthropic contributions to HSS to assist. (Private/Public sponsor mix) e.g.: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)• Community Individuals/Families (including refugee family links) - Eligibility screening needs to ensure that the sponsor is credible, economically able and has the correct motivation to ensure optimal safe & positive settlement.		

4

	A	U	V	W	X
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
1					
	4. What type of vetting or checking should be required for sponsors wishing to sponsor a refugee under a pilot?	police checks, working with children checks	police checks, working with children, referees, financial background, signed contract to work with HSS/SGP, aus resident, interview process and comprehensive assessment,		
5					

	A	U	V	W	X
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
6	5. How should potential applicants be identified for sponsorship and prioritised for visa processing under the pilot?	reuniting families could be high priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * priority given to those in camps for more than 10 years * priority to refugees prepared to relocate to regional areas * people who already have family and friends in Aus 		
7	6. What involvement should community organisations, UNHCR and the Australian Government have in identifying refugees for sponsorship?	important for these groups to work together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> community organisations will be able to identify links in resettlement areas UNHCR can advise Gov UNHCR and Australian Government can increase visits to camps 		

	A	U	V	W	X
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
1					
	7. What responsibilities should sponsors have and what undertakings should they be required to give?	formal contracts need to be drawn up. Organisation and payment for travel, assistance with initial accommodation and orientation to life in Australia.	* pre arrival support * airline ticket support with long term accomodation HSS initial refugee health check with ongoing assistance * support to access centrelink, employment and education		
8					
	8. Should the level of support by sponsors, and length of time it should continue, be defined?	intensive support for 3 years	up to 12 months		
9					

	A	U	V	W	X
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
1					
	9. Should a sponsored refugee be eligible for HSS services?	yes	no		
10					
	10. What government services should the refugee be able to access once they are in Australia?	centrelink,medicare, AMEP, case management, support in finding accommodation and JSA	centrelink medicare, refugee health nurse, AMEP, government dental care, STTC schools, job networks, local government services, HSS/SGP		
11					

	A	U	V	W	X
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
1					
	11.How should sponsors be monitored by Government or a third party to ensure their responsibilities to the sponsored refugee are being met?	third party or government monitoring	KPI's		
12					

	A	U	V	W	X
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
13	12. What is the most appropriate way for the Government to ensure that sponsors comply with their sponsorship obligations?	contracts and agreements must be put in place. Clear obligations and expectations .			
14	13. What role could the payment of a bond play in ensuring that sponsors adequately provide for sponsored refugees?	could ensure that sponsors adequate provide for the refugees and ensure that they meet obligations			

	A	U	V	W	X
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
15	14.Should sponsored refugees exit the scheme after a certain period?	successful settlement can take yeas.			
16	15.What, if any, 'safety net' features should be included in a private/community sponsorship model?				
17	16. What measures could the Government implement to help sponsors meet their sponsorship commitments?	information and education resources, 24/7 hotline.			

	A	U	V	W	X
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)			
18	17. Should there be any sanctions if sponsors fail to meet their responsibilities?	contract would provide legal obligations and sanctions. Hopefully problems can be identified before sanctions are needed.			
19	18. Should a sponsored refugee be able to change sponsors, if their initial sponsor fails to meet their responsibilities?	yes			

	A	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
1	1. Would a pilot of a private/community sponsorship program for refugees be feasible?	yes. There is good will in the community for this program to be successful, especially amongst church groups. Would be helpful to look at Canada's model.	Yes, both feasible and very welcome. This is provided that the introduction of a new scheme does not involve a reduction (as opposed to a redistribution) of existing numbers and services for government sponsored refugees. PILOT THE SCHEME IN BOTH CAPITAL CITIES AND REGIONAL AREAS.	yes - only if it is to operate on a principle of 'addition' rather than 'replacement'. Several community groups have offered to make in kind financial contributions to support more refugees. * believe there would be a general desire within our organisation and, more broadly, the Anglican family in the Brisbane diocese, to support the expansion of the Humanitarian Program, to recognise in principle the value of a pilot program, and to explore ways in which we may potentially engage in a more tangible way in the future.	submission asks for DIAC to increase rohingya intake.	yes
2	2. Are there any alternative or additional measures that the Government could consider in order to increase Australia's Humanitarian Program without a significant budgetary impact?		Possibly a very simple scheme under which relatives/ NGOs in Australia could simply post a bond for each additional refugee given a visa to come to Australia.			
3						

	A	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
1						
4	3. Who should be able to sponsor refugees under a pilot?	believe there is merit in extending this sponsorship to include private and community sponsorship which would mean that Church groups and Community Groups could sponsor refugees	The Canadian scheme would appear to allow for a reasonable range of sponsors. In the Australia context there are very clearly two distinct categories to be considered (a) NGOs who wish to sponsor refugees to come to Australia and help them once arrived (b) relatives of refugees/ humanitarian entrants who are already here. As discussed further below, group (a) often support those most in need such as those who have spent many years living in refugee camps whilst group (b) almost by definition support less desperate refugees, since the relatives they are proposing already have relatives in a developed country (Australia) who can afford to send them funds (with the lowest wages in Australia being very splendid by most African or Asian standards). Widows and single mothers in camps have great needs but appear much less likely to be sponsored by relatives in Australia.			non gov or faith based organisations. Some groups may be limited by work that they are already doing to support refugees

	A	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
1						
5	4. What type of vetting or checking should be required for sponsors wishing to sponsor a refugee under a pilot?	<p>*All sponsors at a minimum should undergo nationally delivered training/induction so that they have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities when sponsoring refugees. This training and induction program should also include an initial assessment process and re-assessment process every twelve months.</p> <p>*If a Church group were to sign up to a "Sponsorship Agreement", we would recommend that someone within the Church be charged with the responsibility of ensuring that sponsors perform their sponsorship duties in a way that empowers and builds on the skills of refugees they sponsor.</p> <p>*A national register of sponsors should be developed by Government which would be used to track the number of sponsors and Sponsorship Agreements that are current and active and whether sponsors or community groups are "disqualified" from sponsoring. This system would also serve as part of the accreditation process where accredited sponsors would need to be registered in order to sponsor a refugee.</p>	Existing NGOs should have a recognised track-record. Small groups should have to demonstrate their bona fides and credit-worthiness. We could, for example, envisage the law or medical students association at a university collectively sponsoring one or two refugees who wanted to study law or medicine.	appropriate checks (such as police or Blue Card checks and interviews by a management/coordination group within the agreement holder/constituent group) would be built into the process of approving potential sponsors.		

	A	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
6	5. How should potential applicants be identified for sponsorship and prioritised for visa processing under the pilot?	<p>*Unaccompanied minors</p> <p>*Families</p> <p>* Women at risk (those who do not have the normal protection of a family unit and who find themselves in precarious situations where the local authorities cannot ensure their safety)</p>	<p>As suggested under question 3 there needs to be a double identification process (a) for the most needy (b) for the Australian relatives of refugees who want to bring them here. In considering refugees to be chosen to come to Australia there are two unfortunately competing criteria (1) need (2) ease of settlement once arrived. In this opposition, probably the most crucial factor is the education and English language ability of the adults involved (children & teenagers learn remarkably quickly). My personal view is that the best balance between the two would be to take any family from a refugee camp where one adult has a basic grasp of English</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as families or groupings of individual people ('Groups of Five' in Canada); • as community groups ('Community Sponsors' in Canada); and • as a constituent groups, with an overarching sponsorship agreement holder. • translation and interpreting services as required; and • full work rights including access to JSA and streaming as per any permanent resident. 		priority given to family reunion or previously refused hum applicants
7	6. What involvement should community organisations, UNHCR and the Australian Government have in identifying refugees for sponsorship?	<p>s. 22(1)(a)(ii) also makes the assumption that the UNHCR and the Australian Government already play a role together in identifying refugees for sponsorship</p>	<p>For category (a) UNHCR with input from the Australian Government, for category (b) their relatives. Some religious groups may wish to bring in co-religionists, does the Australian government wish to encourage this or not ?</p>	<p>Sponsors should have the option of being involved in the identification/nomination of refugees for their sponsorship program priority being placed upon family, community and cultural reunification and/or connection. We suggest that this priority should apply equally if there were to be a government/UNHCR based nomination process running in parallel to the above.</p> <p>For a government/UNHCR-based nomination process it must be understood that ultimately sponsors will be volunteers not paid professionals. They must therefore be given opportunity to consider and possibly decline taking on a particular person(s) as sponsored refugees if they have concerns about their capability to appropriately support the nominee(s) due to language, culture, religious or other factors.</p>		

	A	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
8	7. What responsibilities should sponsors have and what undertakings should they be required to give?	<p>*Providing or contributing to the cost of clothing, furniture and other household goods</p> <p>*Locating interpreters</p> <p>*Locating a family friendly doctor, dentist and pharmacist</p> <p>*Assisting the family to apply for health care coverage</p> <p>*Assisting the family to enrol their child/ren into a local school and adults into English language / adult learning classes</p> <p>*Assisting individuals and families to find employment and longer term housing</p> <p>*Introducing the family to members of the local community, church groups, personal interest groups,</p> <p>*Providing the family with an introduction and orientation with regard to budgeting, banking, transportation, local grocery shops etc..</p>	no specific comments on the remaining questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • education, including the Adult Migrant English Program; • health services, including refugee health services, health care card while applicable, Medicare Card, public dental services, torture and trauma counselling services; 		Where an organisation has the capacity, sponsors should be required to provide financial contributions, human/volunteer resources and social support. Responsibilities should also include monitoring and reporting of their own business and the success of participants.
9	8. Should the level of support by sponsors, and length of time it should continue, be defined?	3-12 months. Sponsors will require accreditation for 12 month period		To this end, the program needs an exit point, either a timed exit or a phased transition as milestones are reached. This would be made clear to sponsored families at the beginning of the program, while acknowledging that relationships of support and friendship are often likely to continue informally.		There should e indicative timeframes for services and supports with consideration that some participants may require more or less supports.

	A	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
10	9. Should a sponsored refugee be eligible for HSS services?			Sponsors cannot be expected to have expert knowledge or to provide more than orientation and social support where more complex needs exist. We suggest that the sponsorship program could link to existing HSS programs so that complex cases could still have a case manager. It would be important that partnership and referral processes are also in place so that if a family or an individual becomes 'complex' (eg for health, financial, emotional/ mental health issues), the management of those issues could be referred to HSS, albeit with continued support from sponsor group		The services available should also include the Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) that all other visa applicants are eligible to access.
11	10. What government services should the refugee be able to access once they are in Australia?	refugees should be able to access the full array of government and non government services that any Australian citizen would once they are in Australia. There should be no distinction or variance in this regard.				All government services and supports should be available to program participants. However, responsibility should be defined and shared across the sponsoring agency and the Department. The project should be focussed on settling the participants and getting them engaged and functioning in their local community as soon as possible.

	A	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
12	11.How should sponsors be monitored by Government or a third party to ensure their responsibilities to the sponsored refugee are being met?	sponsors should (as part of their sponsoring commitment) complete a minimum of 2 training sessions per year. This training should be a combination of face to face and e-learning modules. We also believe that part of “signing up” should also involve a yearly review of their sponsorship as identified in previous sections of this paper.				Sponsors should be required to complete an audit and report to either the Government or an independent 3rd party which should be supported by a broader agreement or contract with clear stipulation of roles and responsibilities.

	A	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
13	12. What is the most appropriate way for the Government to ensure that sponsors comply with their sponsorship obligations?	If sponsors were required to participate in this training, assessment and review process, would give the Government confidence that there is regular monitoring and review of all sponsors wishing to sponsor a refugee. regular feedback from refugees themselves would also serve as another measure / mechanism of monitoring community and private sponsorships.		A key consideration of the pilot scheme needs to be that sponsors are sufficiently supported in their roles that their experience is rewarding and successful for all parties. Indeed it is a significant risk for the long term success of the scheme if this aspect is insufficiently addressed in its design. Effective support for sponsors will maximise investment and 'returns' (for both government and sponsors), in a financial, social and/or emotional sense.		
14	13. What role could the payment of a bond play in ensuring that sponsors adequately provide for sponsored refugees?	not entirely convinced that the payment of a bond would be effective in ensuring that sponsors adequately provide for sponsored refugees. We believe that mechanisms such as the training, e-learning modules, assessment and reassessment processes would provide us with information about whether sponsored refugees are being adequately supported.		we consider that a bond would be a significant disincentive to potential sponsors and likely to be a barrier to the success of the program.		A bond would provide assurance and ensure committed to the project and to fulfil their obligations as a sponsor however this should only be one element of the measures of assurance.

	A	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
15	14. Should sponsored refugees exit the scheme after a certain period?					There should be an indicative timeframe for program however should be assessed on a case by case basis to ensure engagement and greater community outcomes.
16	15. What, if any, 'safety net' features should be included in a private/community sponsorship model?	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) believes that there are services within the Australian community that could serve as a "safety net" for refugees sponsored under this pilot. There are specific programs in communities that aim to work with refugees and there are other mainstream services that refugees can be linked into for support		support a safety net to support both refugees and sponsors in those rare instances where something goes wrong or unsuitable sponsors fail in their duties towards the refugee's).		Resources, key contact people in relevant Departments, a network and links with other agencies should provide a 'safety net' for the sponsors. It could also assist with fostering commitment from other stakeholders to work in true and meaningful partnership for the settlement of new arrivals.
17	16. What measures could the Government implement to help sponsors meet their sponsorship commitments?	believe that a tailored training, assessment and review package would ensure that sponsors are accountable for their obligations.				Ensuring a commitment to communication throughout the partnership, provision of insurance/s, risk assessments and/or tracking and reporting mechanisms to ensure that there is safe guards for those that are coming to Australia as part of the program

	A	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
18	17. Should there be any sanctions if sponsors fail to meet their responsibilities?	the sponsor is provided with support to ensure compliance but ultimately could be "disqualified" from providing sponsorship if all attempts to support the sponsor failed. This would essentially result in the sponsor being de-registered to provide sponsorship of refugees.				There should be sanctions if sponsors fail to meet their responsibilities – this may vary on the sponsor's capacity but could include a financial bond arrangement or compensation scheme but again, it should consider the relationships between the government, sponsor, the participant and overall outcomes rather than appointing of accountability, not withstanding roles and responsibilities would need to be clearly defined.
19	18. Should a sponsored refugee be able to change sponsors, if their initial sponsor fails to meet their responsibilities?	not recommend that this change is made without consideration of what is happening and circumstances leading to this request. We believe that refugees themselves should not make the decision to move or change sponsors without this going through an assessment process. The assessment process and decision to change sponsors should be made by an assessor of some kind.				

	A	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI
Questions		s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
1							
1. Would a pilot of a private/community sponsorship program for refugees be feasible?		feasible and desirable	feasible and warranted in the context of the enormous unmet need for more resettlement places worldwide Representatives from refugee (ethnic) community organisations consulted for this submission and through s. 22(1)(a)(ii) annual community consultations have overwhelmingly articulated their support for greater community involvement in refugee resettlement. there are untapped community resources that could be drawn on in developing a viable and cost-effective pilot. This is also apparent in the overwhelming response of the broader Australian community to the recent Community Placement Network initiative of the Australian Homestay Network for people to provide short-term homestay accommodation to asylum seekers released into the community on bridging visas	strongly support			
2							
2. Are there any alternative or additional measures that the Government could consider in order to increase Australia's Humanitarian Program without a significant budgetary impact?		The Australian government is urged to consider the extremely high costs, both in human and financial terms, of mandatory detention. Abolition of mandatory detention or the reduction of time spent by refugees in mandatory detention would, in itself, significantly reduce the costs involved in the Humanitarian program and thus enable more people to be resettled in Australia at no extra cost to the Australian government or people.	alternative and additional pathways for refugee and humanitarian entrants to propose and reunite with family members under the general Migration Program who would otherwise be eligible under the SHP. While family reunion should be a cornerstone of Refugee and Humanitarian Program, some families may have greater capacity to seek alternative means of reuniting other than the SHP.				
3							

	A	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
1							
4	3. Who should be able to sponsor refugees under a pilot?	the present IAAAS program could be adapted or adjusted to cater for sponsorship of refugees by private individuals, either individually or in groups, and community organisations which are registered with DIAC and subjected to regular supervision and oversight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humanitarian and faith-based community organisations – these organisations may not have been set up for the purposes of supporting refugees but have a social justice outlook, are involved in the delivery of social services and have a resource base which would make them well suited to fulfilling the role of a sponsor group. Volunteer-based community organisations with a proven record in supporting refugee and humanitarian entrants to settle in Australia – for example, the Sanctuary groups; Ethnic community organisations – established by former refugees and with connections to refugee communities in Australia and overseas <p>A sponsorship model should allow for partnerships between different organisations or groups, allowing smaller or less resourced groups to partner with larger organisations</p>	<p>During discussion participant unanimously agreed that the following parties/bodies should be able to sponsor a refugee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Immediate family members, <input type="checkbox"/> Relatives and friends, <input type="checkbox"/> religious organisations, <input type="checkbox"/> community groups and <input type="checkbox"/> Potential business owners who might need workers with specific skills. 			

	A	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
1							
	4. What type of vetting or checking should be required for sponsors wishing to sponsor a refugee under a pilot?	financial resources, capacity to cater for the emotional and physical welfare and well-being of the sponsored refugees, and meet "character requirements" such as having no criminal record. Prospective sponsors and employees of organisations sponsoring refugees who will be working with those refugees should be required to obtain a Police clearance certificate and, in cases where children are involved, also hold a valid working with children certificate and be registered and supervised by the local State Department of Child Protection.	s. 22(1) (a)(iii) suggests that a clearly articulated set of requirements be incorporated in the EOI to ensure minimum standards for sponsoring groups.	Credibility of the person, community groups and religious institutions must be established. Some of the participants suggested that a private sponsor must provide letter of support from the community. However, some participants have a view that this may create friction between sponsor and community leaders in the event of rejection to provide letter of support.			
5							

	A	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
6	5. How should potential applicants be identified for sponsorship and prioritised for visa processing under the pilot?	Potential applicants should be identified for sponsorship and prioritised for visa processing by an independent agency such as the UNHCR. The Australian government should only consider refusing a visa in clearly defined circumstances relating to the character of the proposed refugee or if the proposed refugee is found to be a risk to the national security of Australia. Any refusal of a visa on character or security grounds should be open to challenge before an Australian Court of Law.	a. Applicants with immediate family members in Australia already identified through the SHP and awaiting a visa grant b. Applicants with community links in Australia who have limited or no access to alternative resettlement processes	The potential applicants should be refugees who are registered with UNHCR, refugees who stayed longer in a camp or outside a camp in a risky condition and family reunion need to be prioritized			
7	6. What involvement should community organisations, UNHCR and the Australian Government have in identifying refugees for sponsorship?	Community organisations and the Australian government should have a procedure available to them to approach the UNHCR to request prioritised assessment of any refugee identified by the organisation or the government as being suitable for sponsorship in Australia.		UNHCR: Ensure refugee with their basic human rights, protection and with a statement on their current conditions. Australian Government: Support refugee and sponsors when extra help is required and monitoring the process of sponsorship. Community organisation: Provide assistance to the sponsor necessary, for example organizing a loan to pay airfare if the sponsor has financial need and contributing to the mentoring of sponsorship. In exceptional cases, provide assistant to the refugee when the sponsor or the community is proven to be unable to fulfil the tasks and financial commitments of sponsoring.			

	A	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
1							
8	7. What responsibilities should sponsors have and what undertakings should they be required to give?	Sponsors should have the responsibility for the day to day care, welfare and well-being of the sponsored refugee and should sign a written undertaking in this regard in respect of each sponsored refugee. The care, welfare and well-being of sponsored refugees should include, but not be limited to, providing accommodation, food and clothing, assisting with the integration of the sponsored refugee into the local community and the wider Australian society, ensuring that the health of the sponsored refugee is adequately catered for with visits to Doctors, Dentists and any medical facilities as and when required, ensuring that the sponsored refugee attends any educational institution or training facility as entitled or required by law, ensuring that the sponsored refugee has access to any religious place of worship as required by the sponsored refugee and to do all things reasonably necessary to ensure the physical, mental and spiritual health of the sponsored refugee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * administration and liaison - identification of applicants, liaison with DIAC *airfares * case management - in collaborations with HSS * transit assistance *reception, property induction and initial food provision * essential registrations - centrelink, Medicare, schooling etc * orientation to link with HSS provider's * health services - ensuring referrals are made to health services. * short term accommodations, support in securing long term accommodation * basic household goods package * employment assistance 	The following tasks should be the sponsor's duties after arrival: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> area orientation <input type="checkbox"/> take the refugee to public services among others Centrelink , Medicare office, language school, general practitioner, hospital, Queensland transport to get license and bank (show how to use ATM). <input type="checkbox"/> explain and show the person important places like Moorooka shopping centre by public transport and importance of multicultural democratic systems <input type="checkbox"/> link the person to employment agency <input type="checkbox"/> assist in finding accommodation <input type="checkbox"/> link the person to employment agency <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant laws e.g. domestic protection, road safety, etc. 			
9	8. Should the level of support by sponsors, and length of time it should continue, be defined?	The level of support required to be given by sponsors should be clearly defined and any failure to give the designated support should lead to the cancellation of the sponsorship by the sponsor and, in appropriate circumstances be subject to civil or criminal sanction. The length of time of any sponsorship should also be clearly defined and should be variable depending on the individual circumstances of the sponsor and the sponsored refugee and should be capable of variation should the circumstances of either the sponsor or the sponsored refugee change.	s. 22(1)(a)(iii) considers that a minimum of 12 months of support by a sponsor group would provide a commensurate amount of time for on-arrival settlement support to that provided through the HSS	Yes, the level of support and length of time should be defined by at least six month.			

	A	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
1							
10	9. Should a sponsored refugee be eligible for HSS services?	It is submitted that it would be unreasonable to expect sponsors to meet the full cost of the sponsored refugees expenses and that this might lead to the sponsorship program only being available to wealthy individuals and organisations. It is suggested that to avoid any "elitist" character to the program developing that sponsors be assisted by granting the sponsored refugee 50% of the current entitlements of persons under the HSS program.	s. 22(1)(a)(iii) believes that settlement standards must be commensurate under privately-sponsored and Government-funded streams, considering that a sponsored refugee also has gone through the same experience as those who come to Australia on other humanitarian visa categories, and they should be eligible for services equivalent to those provided under the Humanitarian Settlement Services (HSS) program. Sponsor groups could or should have the capacity to provide a large proportion of the services provided by HSS contractors and would not require HSS services, but that sponsor groups could potentially link in with local HSS services to ascertain where services could be provided with minimal cost impact for providers, for example, expanding access to orientation for some sponsored refugees or including sponsor group volunteers in HSS volunteer induction and training	No, the sponsor should take responsibility to the settlement of the refugee who they sponsored. The sponsor is expected to assist the refugee with looking for accommodation if possible or link to organisation who can assist etc. as per Question 7, above.			
11	10. What government services should the refugee be able to access once they are in Australia?	The services as set out in 9 above.	*Centrelink – although some expectation of greater support and success in transitioning to financial self-sufficiency should be incorporated in a private/community sponsorship model, this should not exclude or limit eligibility to Centrelink as a basic safety net and entitlement of any permanent resident; * Medicare – same access as any other permanent resident; *AMEP – entitlement to 510 hours as per other humanitarian entrants; Torture and trauma services – referral as required; *Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) – the need to access TIS may be reduced, particularly when the sponsor group is partnered with or is an ethnic community organisation, but sponsored refugees should not be excluded from eligibility to TIS, particularly when communicating with essential services; *Any other government services that other permanent residents are eligible to access – this includes education, employment and health services; *Complex Case Support (CCS) – although the selection of potential applicants should where possible consider complex cases as more appropriately referred for support by funded HSS providers, it should be recognised that complexities and vulnerabilities of sponsored refugees may emerge after settlement that are beyond the capacity of a sponsor group to address. In these cases, referral for CCS may be required and eligibility should be open to sponsored refugees to access CCS. This would also provide a safety net (Q.15) for those sponsored under such a program and for the sponsor groups; SGP – potential for referral to SGP services after 12 months.	The sponsored refugees should be able to access the following government services: <input type="checkbox"/> Centrelink <input type="checkbox"/> Translation and interpreting Services (TIS) <input type="checkbox"/> Child care rebate or child care assistant while studying English <input type="checkbox"/> Job search assistant <input type="checkbox"/> Further education <input type="checkbox"/> Medicare <input type="checkbox"/> English lessons			

	A	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
1							
12	11. How should sponsors be monitored by Government or a third party to ensure their responsibilities to the sponsored refugee are being met?	The independent Reviewing Authority should also act as an arbitrator to deal with complaints and any sponsor found to be guilty of failure to give the designated support to a sponsored refugee should be struck off the register of sponsors and prohibited from future sponsorships. Sponsors should be monitored, in the first instance, by Case Managers appointed to the sponsored refugee by the DIAC. An independent monitoring body should be established to provide an independent and objective overview of the program.		The settlement process could be monitored by interviewing the refugees, with sponsors, or doing a regular follow up to see how they are doing. The government could also provide a Check list or Terms of Reference to be approved and used by the sponsor and government. The sponsor should explain to the refugee's Australian way of life and values, also some common cultural differences need to be made clear to avoid cultural clashes, misunderstanding and misinterpretation. The refugees could be provided with information concerning his/her rights and be required to report to government or third party if sponsors are not fulfilling their stated and agreed obligations. The organisations stated below, who will jointly be responsible for their obligations to the refugee should be included in the process of monitoring which will ensure verification of the sponsorship functioning well.			

	A	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
13	12. What is the most appropriate way for the Government to ensure that sponsors comply with their sponsorship obligations?	<p>It is submitted that the most appropriate way for the government to ensure that sponsors comply with their sponsorship obligations is to ensure that the sponsorship program is a statutory-based program with legally enforceable rights for the sponsored refugee and legally enforceable obligations for the sponsor. In addition to this, government should ensure that an independent review process is established and that both sponsors and sponsored refugees should have a clear procedure to follow to report any problems/issues which arise during the course of the sponsorship agreement. The independent review body should be separate from and independent of DIAC and, as far as practical, independent of government.</p>		<p>A Sponsorship Agreement should be contracted to OR Terms of Reference so that all parties have jointly agreed to fulfil specific obligations. The Sponsorship Agreement will be used as the basis of monitoring and will refer to as a guide to a fully functioning sponsorship program. Feedback from community and the refugees could be obtained to find out whether the sponsorship comply their obligation or not.</p>			
14	13. What role could the payment of a bond play in ensuring that sponsors adequately provide for sponsored refugees?	<p>The payment of a bond would be inappropriate and add an unnecessary burden or obstacle to the process. Imposition of a bond may lead to exploitation of the sponsored refugee as has happened with the Assurance of Support bond in the family visa program where persons enter into an AOS bond at exorbitant rates to the prejudice of the visa applicants.</p>	<p>bond would not be an appropriate sanction or means of encouraging sponsor accountability, particularly when considering that many potential sponsor groups would be volunteer-based organisations with limited resources and which draw more heavily on in-kind resources and fundraising ability.</p>	<p>The bond might play a vital role in complying the Sponsorship Agreement and obligations expected from the sponsor. However, the bond should be reasonable cost as the sponsor may incur many other expenses at the same time such as medical and air tickets.</p>			

	A	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
15	14. Should sponsored refugees exit the scheme after a certain period?			Yes the refugee should exit the programme after a set period of time.			
16	15. What, if any, 'safety net' features should be included in a private/community sponsorship model?	a. Regular review of the program by an independent monitoring body which has the power to act positively to assist any sponsored refugee who is being adversely affected by the circumstances of their situation. b. Each sponsored refugee should have a dedicated Case Worker assigned to them to assist both the sponsored refugee with any issues beyond the control of the sponsor and to assist the sponsor to meet all their obligations under the sponsorship agreement.		We the community, think it will be good if there is some kind of "safety net" to minimise the possible problems. These options could be mentioned as "safety net" <input type="checkbox"/> Paying bond to ensure compliance with obligations <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavit or status declaration to support legal responsibility <input type="checkbox"/> Public liability insurance			
17	16. What measures could the Government implement to help sponsors meet their sponsorship commitments?	The government could implement the measures set out in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 15 above.	support structure would need to be established to act as a central coordinating body. This role could potentially be fulfilled by establishing a structure within DIAC, which would probably be more feasible in the context of a small pilot program, or by contracting this out to a national organisation in the case of an expanded program.				

	A	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					
18	17. Should there be any sanctions if sponsors fail to meet their responsibilities?	It is submitted that sanctions should apply if sponsors fail to meet their responsibilities. Sanctions should vary, depending on the severity of the breach of the sponsorship obligations and could range from a verbal warning through to a written warning and an order to remedy the breach to, in the most severe cases, either civil or criminal law sanction if the breach amounts to breaking an Australian law.	Where groups fail to meet sponsorship requirements, an appropriate sanction may be to disallow future sponsorship applications or to impose specific conditions which ensure future compliance.	Yes, there should be a sanction if the sponsor fails to meet his/her obligations. Such a failure should have consequences for future sponsorship and further assistance by the community. When failure occurs the community will take over the task.			
19	18. Should a sponsored refugee be able to change sponsors, if their initial sponsor fails to meet their responsibilities?	A sponsored refugee should be allowed to change sponsors if their initial sponsor fails to meet their sponsorship responsibilities, especially if the failure is through no fault of the sponsored refugee.	s. 22(1)(a)(iii) believes that the role of monitoring and evaluation of a pilot private/community sponsorship program should be undertaken by an independent body with input from a panel of experts – including DIAC, settlement services and peak bodies. The timeframe for monitoring and evaluation should be at least two years to ensure the evaluation incorporates an assessment of employment outcomes as well as the provision of basic settlement supports.	Yes, a sponsored refugee should be free to change his/her sponsor if the initial sponsor is proven to be not meeting their agreed obligations. This has to be verified using the sponsorship agreement and the monitoring process which involves all relevant parties			

	A	AJ	AK	AL	AM	AN
Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)					s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
1						
1. Would a pilot of a private/community sponsorship program for refugees be feasible?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	supportive, as long as it would provide additional places over and above the 13750. * s. 22(1)(a)(ii) recommends that the Canadian Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program be used as a model for the pilot Australian program. However, we recommend additional safety net features be incorporated, particularly around access to appropriate services, for instance for victims torture and trauma. The need for ongoing training of sponsoring groups should also be a priority and the program itself should not be too complicated, legalistic or inaccessible * Whilst canadian model should be used, processing times need to be improved. canadian model takes up to three years to process refugee under the PSR program * Consideration will need to be given as to whether or not the private sponsorship pilot will include both family reunion as well as broader protection cases and if so how with this be balanced to ensure that the private sponsorship program does not become another de facto family reunion program.
2						
2. Are there any alternative or additional measures that the Government could consider in order to increase Australia's Humanitarian Program without a significant budgetary impact?						
3						

	A	AJ	AK	AL	AM	AN
	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
1						
4	3. Who should be able to sponsor refugees under a pilot?	*individual families/relatives who have financial capacity * community organisations	1. community organisations 2. incorporated organisations 3. private citizens	Permanent residents with 2 or more year's residence or Australian Citizens who have resided in Australia for the past year and can commit to residing in the same area with the humanitarian entrant for at least 2 years after arrival. Such persons would need to be thoroughly vetted to ensure the reasons for sponsorship were legitimate and humanitarian.	individuals, religious groups, ethno specific groups and other community not for profit organisations should be able to sponsor	

	A	AJ	AK	AL	AM	AN
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
5	4. What type of vetting or checking should be required for sponsors wishing to sponsor a refugee under a pilot?	must have following resources: * organisational capacity * financial * human resources	As such based on this best practice framework we would recommend the following vetting and checking processes. 1. Information session to all potential sponsor applicants; 2. Application process - potential sponsor fills out an application form with all details of why they would like to sponsor a refugee , proposed settlement and financial plan; 3. Face-to-face interview- if potential sponsor passes the application process they attend a face to face interview with DIAC or subcontracted third party; 4. Reference checks are conducted (both professional and personal); 5. National police check and Working for children check (if sponsoring family groups or unaccompanied minors) are undertaken. If it is an organisation applying, then volunteers/staff unaccompanied minors) are undertaken. If it is an organisation applying, then volunteers/staff should have these checks. 6. Financial checks to demonstrate they are able to support their clients/s for a period of one year; 7. House inspections 8. Risk Management- personality tests are done (if individuals are sponsoring refugee/s). 9. Sign an agreement with the Australian Government to provide funds and carry out stipulated duties in the agreement.	A clear Police check or working with children's check would be one of the first credentials initially required. There should be no criminal history relating to each individual. Personal references should be provided with clear police check/working with children check for each referee.	For individuals, we believe that the checks should be the same as those required for any individual sponsoring someone to migrate to Australia under any visa f category. For organisations, it would be necessary to be registered with a state or federal government agency such as the NSW Office of Fair Trading, with objectives that support their participation in the pilot program. The organization should have served the community for not less than 10 years.	

	A	AJ	AK	AL	AM	AN
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
6	5. How should potential applicants be identified for sponsorship and prioritised for visa processing under the pilot?	s. 22(1)(a)(iii) recommends that all potential applicants be persons identified and/or defined by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) as refugees. In addition they must be recognised by Australian law as refugees or in a refugee-like situation to be eligible for the program. In particular, preference should be provided to those who are considered vulnerable in the following categories; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugees at risk in the camps. • women, children, political activists/journalists-to add to what the government has listed as eligible • Refugees with relatives in Australia 	* meet refugee status * personal criteria: low risk clients, points based system eg English, educations, work skills, 50 yrs or younger, be able to pass health and security, priority given to UAMs * client is referred to DIAC thru UNHCR or client can apply directly to DIAC	Potential applicants could be identified via family members / UNHCR list of eligible individuals with family members who have already gained Humanitarian visas.	Individuals and organisations may become aware of potential applicants through a variety of means. For example, in the case of our organisation, we are often made aware of potential humanitarian entrants through their relationship with relative and friends who are already residing in Australia. However, potential applicants will need to meet the UNHCR guidelines for applying to become a humanitarian entrant. Perhaps under the pilot program, the Department of Immigration can design categories such as for existing humanitarian migrants, to differentiate applicants according to their situation or sponsorship commitment, and to give priorities to refugees in a more dire situation.	
7	6. What involvement should community organisations, UNHCR and the Australian Government have in identifying refugees for sponsorship?	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) opines that community organisations, UNHCR and the Australian Government should have a joint role in identifying refugees for sponsorship. There should be a consultative mechanism/forum which brings together all those key stakeholders where all the sensitive/complex cases are discussed and policies are discussed before making decisions to ensure transparency and accountability.	DIAC match client with sponsoring organisation or individuals. UNHCR to refer people to program that have been given refugee status if they meet the criteria. Community organisations can nominate to sponsor certain individuals, however, they need to apply and be accepted via DIAC.		UNHCR should continue to have primary responsibility for identifying refugees for sponsorship. They have well-established criteria for assessing individual's eligibility and operate over such a wide geographical area to permit them to access to a large number of refugee groups.	

	A	AJ	AK	AL	AM	AN
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
8	7. What responsibilities should sponsors have and what undertakings should they be required to give?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *payment of bond * facilitate relocation * support settlement/housing * foster integration * assist refugees access mainstream services 	sponsor would replace HSS provider	Sponsors should have full financial and settlement responsibility for applicants. They would need to show ability to cover the cost to travel, initial set up of the family / individual, medical costs etc and have a thorough knowledge of the settling area as well as the organisations and services they provide within the community.	Individual sponsors should be means tested before they can become a sponsor so that the risk of their obligation being defaulted on is minimized.	
9	8. Should the level of support by sponsors, and length of time it should continue, be defined?	yes with a possibility for periodic reviews		The length of time for sponsorship to continue should be at least a commitment of 2 years. This would ensure that the new arrival has been linked in to numerous relevant community services. This may mean a "checklist" for the sponsoring family/families/organisation.	Sponsors should be responsible for the initial travel costs if possible with grants from the government, and living costs of the arrivals for up to one year if there were to be a 6-month exclusion period for them to access Centrelink payments	

	A	AJ	AK	AL	AM	AN
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
10	9. Should a sponsored refugee be eligible for HSS services?	yes in collaboration with settlement agencies		Sponsored refugees should be eligible for limited HSS / SGP support. However the sponsor should be responsible for much of the initial settlement.	They should be eligible for some HSS services. This should be assessed on individual basis.	
11	10. What government services should the refugee be able to access once they are in Australia?	*education * medical * English language classes * job search		Sponsored refugees should be eligible for all government services provided to permanent residents once arriving in the country.	The refugees should be able to access English learning services, Medicare, employment and training services once they arrive.	

	A	AJ	AK	AL	AM	AN
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
12	11. How should sponsors be monitored by Government or a third party to ensure their responsibilities to the sponsored refugee are being met?	s. 22(1)(a)(iii) recommends the appointment of an independent entity devoid of Government control. This should be a Commission established by act of parliament		Monitoring by Government or a third party to ensure responsibilities are fulfilled is integral to the success of the program. Humanitarian entrants are often very vulnerable and easily taken advantage of. Suggestions for monitoring would be a monthly report by sponsor back to DIAC (possibility for referral of difficult issues to HSS / SGP) and an incremental interview with interpreter provided to Humanitarian entrants without their sponsor present could be possibilities.	Channels of communication would need to be established with both the sponsor and the sponsored refugee for a third party to monitor that responsibilities are being met. It is important that both parties are spoken with to check for any inconsistencies. Sponsors would require an interview to determine their eligibility at which their responsibilities would be made clear.	

	A	AJ	AK	AL	AM	AN
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
13	12. What is the most appropriate way for the Government to ensure that sponsors comply with their sponsorship obligations?	Requirement that sponsors provide progress reports to government Regular audit by the Commission.		DIAC could provide a training day for sponsors to alert them to all the issues and stages of settlement. This forum could include a settlement pack with settlement goals to guide sponsors. Checklists and dedicated visits etc to each of the families and applicants to ensure things are going well.	It would be a good idea to require sponsors to pay a minimal bond that is returned to them at the end of a two-year period. The bond could ensure that the government has some funds to support the sponsored refugee in cases where the sponsor does not meet there obligations	
14	13. What role could the payment of a bond play in ensuring that sponsors adequately provide for sponsored refugees?	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) view is that there should be legal and financial penalties (including forfeiture of Bond) in the event of breach of sponsors' obligations.		The payment of a bond may deter potential exploitation of applicants. Return of the bond may be at the end of the 2 year period or release incrementally during the 2 year period subject to milestones achieved.	In such a case, the bond can be taken used to make a special payment to the sponsored refugee. If a sponsor fails to meet their sponsorship commitment, refugees would have to lodge an application to Centrelink as a record and claim special payment that would come out of the bond.	

	A	AJ	AK	AL	AM	AN
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
15	14. Should sponsored refugees exit the scheme after a certain period?	Yes. There should be a time when sponsored refugees should exit the program. This will give room for other needy cases. s. 22(1)(a)(ii) supports an elaborate mechanism for exit to take effect. That there must be criteria for example the sponsored refugees having been fully resettled, integrated and engaged in gainful employment.		Refugees could exit the sponsored system after two years and be eligible for reduced SGP support for the coming three years	At the end of a two-year period the sponsor should be relinquished of their responsibilities to the sponsored refugee. From our experience that is a sufficient amount of time for the typical sponsored refugee to have transitioned into life in Australia and to be confident in functioning independently.	
16	15. What, if any, 'safety net' features should be included in a private/community sponsorship model?	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) is the view that sponsors of refugees must meet among other the following: key requirements; *Knowledge of key services *Public liability insurance *Ability to channel issues to relevant Government agencies at Federal, State and Local level. * Evidence of funds to support eligible sponsors refugees for at least 6 Months in Australia		There needs to be a "safety net" incorporated to prevent any issues of exploitation. As indicated previously this may have regard to the payment of a bond which is returned after the 2 year period or incrementally throughout this period.	Prior to the end of the two-year period, sponsored refugees should be assessed for the suitability to exit the scheme. If it is deemed that they require extra support the assessing party has the time to make referrals to relevant services.	
17	16. What measures could the Government implement to help sponsors meet their sponsorship commitments?	Ongoing monitoring by the Independent body or the Commission.		As indicated previously, a training day to ensure all Government expectations and information is clearly understood. Also "checklists" which include reportable milestones which would be discussed during face to face interviews with the family/families/organisations.	The return of the bond after a two-year period would be a good incentive to help sponsors meet their obligations. It would be important not to make the responsibilities of the sponsor so onerous that it becomes unachievable in light of their existing commitments.	

	A	AJ	AK	AL	AM	AN
1	Questions	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)				
18	17. Should there be any sanctions if sponsors fail to meet their responsibilities?	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) opines that the sanctions should be prescribed in the letter of commitment by the Government to sponsors.		As indicated previously, this could relate back to the bond and its repayment	In cases where sponsors fail to meet their responsibilities they will not have their bond returned.	
19	18. Should a sponsored refugee be able to change sponsors, if their initial sponsor fails to meet their responsibilities?	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) response is in the affirmative. However this must only occur in exceptional circumstances. For purposes of natural justice the action should be based on the recommendations of the independent body / Commission to be established.		A sponsored refugee should be able to change sponsors only in extenuating circumstances. The next sponsor must agree to the terms originally signed off on.	If it is within the two-year period and another sponsor is available then we do not see any problem with a sponsored refugee being able to change sponsors. The only potential problem could be in finding another sponsor. It could be that the Department of Immigration has a list of interested sponsors who may not know of someone eligible to become a sponsored refugee but would still like to participate in the program.	

Summary of key issues raised in community submissions

61 responses were received in response to the discussion paper. Submissions were received from key humanitarian organisations, community organisations, faith-based groups and State, Territory and Local Governments.

Issues for consideration	Responses
Would a pilot of a private/community sponsorship program for refugees be feasible?	<p>The submissions are broadly supportive of the private/community sponsorship program. The submissions outline that the pilot would be both feasible and welcome in Australia. However many submissions highlight that there are a number of challenges that need to be addressed in order for this pilot to be successfully implemented in an Australian context.</p> <p>s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1) and a number of smaller refugee support groups expressed concern that the pilot may create a 'second class' of refugees. s. 22(1)(a) (a)(ii) and s. 22(1)(a)(ii) emphasised that the pilot would only be feasible if significant resources are allocated for in-depth planning, implementation and evaluation. These concerns have also been voiced by a number of s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p>
Who should be able to sponsor refugees under a pilot?	<p>The submissions identified a number of groups that could sponsor refugees under the pilot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community organisations and groups: The majority of submissions support the idea that community groups and organisations be able to sponsor refugees. There is a clear consensus that any such group would be experienced with settling and supporting refugees. Individuals: responses are mixed on whether individuals should be able to sponsor refugees. s. 22(1)(a) (a)(ii) and s. 22(1)(a)(ii) both expressed the view that resettled refugees should be able to sponsor family members to come to Australia under this pilot. This view is supported by a number of ethnic and cultural groups. However other submissions outline those individuals may not be able to adequately provide the financial or settlement services required by refugees.
Identifying refugees for sponsorship	<p>The majority of submissions outline that refugees selected for the pilot should be mandated by the UNHCR and meet the criteria already established under the Offshore Humanitarian program.</p> <p>A significant number of submissions call on the government to use this pilot as a means of addressing the limited places available for 'split family' applications. Many submissions see the pilot as a way to facilitate family reunion. Other submissions suggest that refugees should be selected based on skills, English proficiency and ability to successfully settle.</p>
Responsibilities of sponsors	<p>The large majority of submissions are of the view that sponsors will provide support similar to that currently provided by HSS providers. The general consensus is that sponsors will be responsible for providing airfares, initial accommodation, orientation support, household goods, and in some cases assistance in finding employment. Whilst some submissions outline that the sponsor should provide financial support, there is no suggestion that this will be provided in lieu of Government income support. s. 22(1)(a) (a)(ii) and a number of ethnic community organisations suggest that they will require the refugee to pay back money for airfares and initial rent once they are able to do so. There is a general consensus that refugees under the pilot will remain eligible for the suite of government services currently available to humanitarian entrants. This includes s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</p> <p>The use of a legally binding contract that outlines sponsor obligations and responsibilities is strongly supported in the submissions.</p>
A safety net	<p>There is clear support that the pilot have an adequate safety net to ensure that refugees which will ensure that refugees sponsored through the program are able to settle in Australia and become fully participating members of the Australian community to the same extent as refugees who are not participating in the pilot. A number of submission suggested that HSS services providers be used as a back-up, if the sponsor fails to meet their responsibilities. Others suggest the use of a bond, to ensure that sponsored adequately provide for refugees. However many organisations feel that an upfront payment to contribute to cost of these services would be prohibitive on a number of community organisations which have limited financial resources.</p>

ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO PROVIDED RESPONSES

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)


s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Participants in consultations

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)



s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)



Australian Government
Department of Immigration
and Citizenship

RECEIVED BY THE
MINISTER FOR
IMMIGRATION
AND CITIZENSHIP
13 SEP 2012

Submission

Legal-In-Confidence

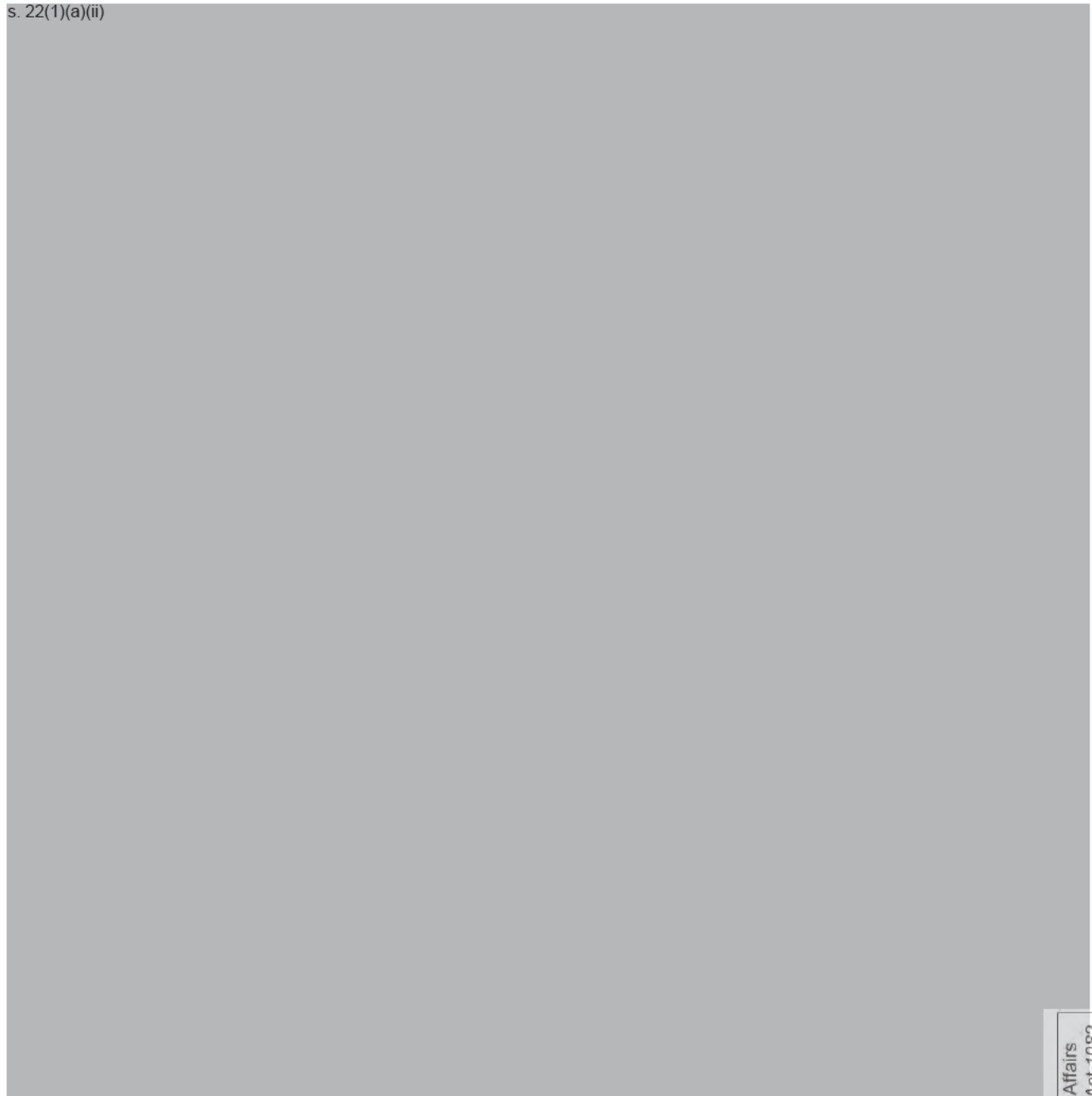
For decision

ExecCorro Reg. Number *CB2012/03139*

To Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

Subject Proposed pilot private community sponsorship model

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)



Minister

See Comments.

Signature.....
[Handwritten Signature]

Date: *19/09*./2012

Released by Department of Home Affairs
under the Freedom of Information Act 1982

Consultation – internal/external

36. Internal: Citizenship, Settlement and Multicultural Affairs Division; Client Strategy and Performance Division; Financial Services and Strategy Division; Governance and Legal Division; Migration and Visa Policy Division; Technology Services Division.

37. Commonwealth Government: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; Department of Finance and Deregulation; Department of Health and Ageing; Department of Human Services; Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education; Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet; Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport; Department of Transport and Infrastructure; Department of Treasury.

38. External:

- 61 organisations have provided responses to the discussion paper. In these responses, these organisations noted:
 - Their broad support for the community sponsorship concept
 - A willingness to provide services similar to those currently provided by DIAC through the HSS program
 - Their concerns about the capacity in the community sector to provide the funding to offset the Government's costs of settling humanitarian entrants
 - A number of settlement service providers have also raised concerns about the expertise of sponsors to provide settlement services at the required professional level
 - A summary of the key issues raised in the submissions, including a list of submission authors, is at [Attachment C](#).
- The Department has also held individual meetings with a range of community and faith-based organisations, including s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (list at [Attachment D](#)).

Attachment D Participants in consultations

Authorising Officer	
s. 47F(1)	
Jim O'Callaghan Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian Branch	
11/ 9 / 12	
Ph: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Through:	Vicki Parker, First Assistant Secretary, Refugee, Humanitarian and International Policy Division. <i>NR 12/9</i>
Contact Officer	s. 22(1)(a)(ii) Director, Policy and International Engagement Section, Humanitarian Branch, s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

CC

Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Acting Secretary

Deputy Secretaries

A/g First Assistant Secretary, Citizenship, Settlement and Multicultural Affairs Division

First Assistant Secretary, Migration and Visa Policy Division

First Assistant Secretary, Governance and Legal Division

First Assistant Secretary, Client Strategy and Performance Division

Chief Financial Officer

Chief Information Officer

Assistant Secretary, Multicultural and Settlement Policy Branch

Assistant Secretary, Settlement and Multicultural Programs Branch

Assistant Secretary, Legal Framework Branch

Assistant Secretary, Litigation and Opinions Branch

Assistant Secretary, Visa Framework and Family Policy Branch

Assistant Secretary, Financial Strategy and Budgets Branch

National Communications Manager

Minister's Comments

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

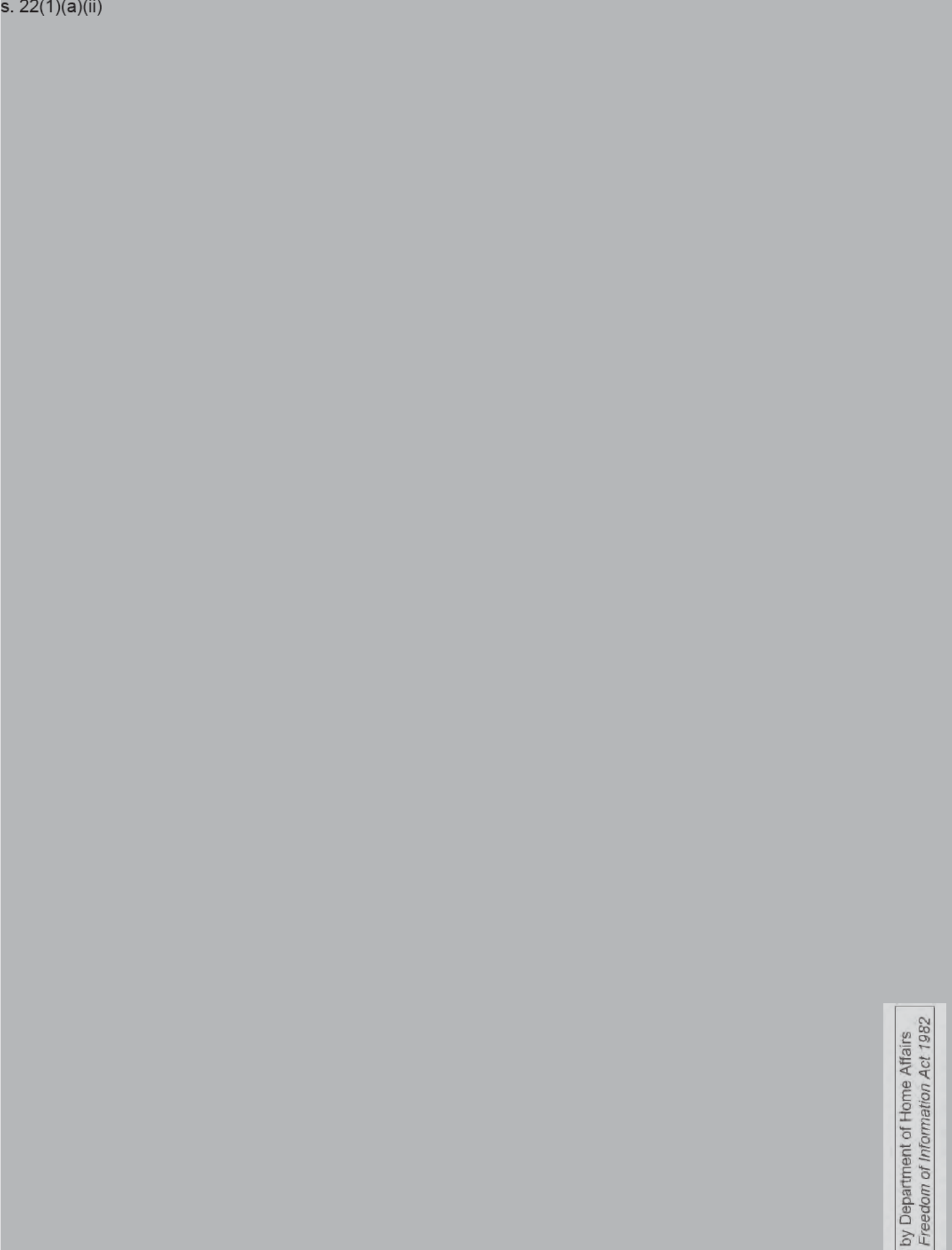
Summary of key issues raised in community submissions

The Department has received 61 responses to the discussion paper from key humanitarian organisations, community organisations, faith-based groups and State, Territory and Local Governments.

Issues for consideration	Responses
Would a pilot of a private/community sponsorship program for refugees be feasible?	<p>The submissions are broadly supportive of the private/community sponsorship program. The submissions outline that the pilot would be both feasible and welcome in Australia. However many submissions highlight that there are a number of challenges that need to be addressed in order for this pilot to be successfully implemented in an Australian context.</p> <p>s. 22(1)(a)(ii) and a number of smaller refugee support groups expressed concern that the pilot may create a 'second class' of refugees. s. 22(1)(a)(ii) emphasised that the pilot would only be feasible if significant resources are allocated for in-depth planning, implementation and evaluation. These concerns have also been voiced by a number of Commonwealth Government agencies including FAHCSIA and DEEWR.</p> <p>The submissions identified a number of groups that could sponsor refugees under the pilot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community organisations and groups: The majority of submissions support the idea that community groups and organisations be able to sponsor refugees. There is a clear consensus that any such group would be experienced with settling and supporting refugees. Individuals: responses are mixed on whether individuals should be able to sponsor refugees. s. 22(1)(a)(ii) both expressed the view that resettled refugees should be able to sponsor family members to come to Australia under this pilot. This view is supported by a number of ethnic and cultural groups. However other submissions outline those individuals may not be able to adequately provide the financial or settlement services required by refugees.
Who should be able to sponsor refugees under a pilot?	<p>The majority of submissions outline that refugees selected for the pilot should be mandated by the UNHCR and meet the criteria already established under the Offshore Humanitarian program.</p> <p>A significant number of submissions call on the government to use this pilot as a means of addressing the limited places available for 'split family' applications. Many submissions see the pilot as a way to facilitate family reunion. Other submissions suggest that refugees should be selected based on skills, English proficiency and ability to successfully settle.</p>
Responsibilities of sponsors	<p>The large majority of submissions are of the view that sponsors will provide support similar to that currently provided by HSS providers. The general consensus is that sponsors will be responsible for providing airfares, initial accommodation, orientation support, household goods, and in some cases assistance in finding employment. Whilst some submissions outline that the sponsor should provide financial support, there is no suggestion that this will be provided in lieu of Government income support. s. 22(1)(a)(ii) and a number of ethnic community organisations suggest that they will require the refugee to pay back money for airfares and initial rent once they are able to do so.</p> <p>There is a general consensus that refugees under the pilot will remain eligible for the suite of government services currently available to humanitarian entrants. This includes Medicare, Centrelink, the Adult Migrant English Program and Job Services Australia.</p> <p>The use of a legally binding contract that outlines sponsor obligations and responsibilities is strongly supported in the submissions.</p>
A safety net	<p>There is clear support that the pilot have an adequate safety net to ensure that refugees which will ensure that refugees sponsored through the program are able to settle in Australia and become fully participating members of the Australian community to the same extent as refugees who are not participating in the pilot. A number of submission suggested that HSS services providers be used as a back-up, if the sponsor fails to meet their responsibilities. Others suggest the use of a bond, to ensure that sponsored adequately provide for refugees. However many organisations feel that an upfront payment to contribute to cost of these services would be prohibitive on a number of community organisations which have limited financial resources.</p>

ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO PROVIDED RESPONSES

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)



Participants in consultations

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

