

**Home Affairs Portfolio
Department of Home Affairs
Supplementary Estimates Hearing – October 2025**

KEY BRIEF

Topic: Third Country Reception Arrangement

Responsible Deputy Secretary: Clare Sharp, Head of Immigration.

Key Top Lines

- The Australian Government has entered into a third country reception arrangement with the Government of Nauru.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Australia and the Republic of Nauru signed on Friday 29 August 2025 will enable Australia to affect the removal of individuals who have no legal right to remain in Australia and cannot be returned to a country of which they hold citizenship.
- This arrangement builds on an earlier interim agreement under which three non-citizens who have no right to remain in Australia, but who were not able to be returned to their home country, were granted Long Term Stay Visas by the Government of Nauru.

Handling Notes:

- Ms Clare Sharp, Head of Immigration, is the lead witness on the topics contained in this brief.

Key Points

- Australia has committed to support Nauru through an investment of \$408 million once the first removed person arrives in Nauru.
- The majority of these funds (\$388 million) will be placed in a newly established trust fund to support Nauru's long-term economic resilience and to meet its commitments under the Third Country Reception Arrangement.
- Funds will become payable upon arrival of the first person on Nauru.
- From the second year, Australia will also provide an annual payment to cover ongoing costs associated with the Third Country Reception Arrangement, of up to approximately \$70 million, depending on the number of settled persons in Nauru.
- Robust arrangements will be in place for the Australian Government to be able to withdraw from the arrangement, and recover appropriate funds from the Trust, for example if its primary purpose cannot be achieved.
- The new fund will be separate from the Nauru Intergenerational Trust Fund established on 6 November 2015.

Individuals Transferred under the Third Country Reception Arrangement

- This arrangement enables Australia to effect the removal of individuals who have no legal right to remain in Australia and cannot be returned to their home countries.
- This arrangement sends a clear message to non-citizens that if they choose to violate the laws of Australia, they will not be permitted to remain.

Clearing Officer: Michael Burke, acting Deputy Secretary Immigration Compliance

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- Individuals removed under this arrangement will be granted 30-year long-term stay visas by the Government of Nauru.
- Nauru will make decisions about who to grants visas to. Decisions regarding right of entry to Nauru are a matter for the Government of Nauru.
- Individuals will be provided with appropriate housing, healthcare, and a safety net to support them to settle and integrate with the Nauru community.
- Individuals will have work rights.
- This arrangement is unrelated to regional processing arrangements.

Previous Public Interest Immunity (PII) claims on questions from the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

- *The Memorandum of Understanding document signed on 29 August 2025*

Consultation

- The Chief Finance Officer has cleared financial data contained within this brief.

Clearing Officer: Michael Burke, acting Deputy Secretary Immigration Compliance