

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(120) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Humphries asked:

How many places in the humanitarian and refugee program have been provided to the family members of onshore asylum claimants, including those who have arrived by boat?

Answer:

In 2009–10, to 31 January 2010, 441 visas have been granted to immediate family members of onshore Protection visa or Resolution of Status visa holders (including irregular maritime arrivals) under the split family provisions of the offshore Humanitarian Program.

The split family provisions under the Humanitarian Program allow permanent Humanitarian (including Permanent Protection) or Resolution of Status visa holders to propose their immediate family members for entry under the Program. An application needs to be lodged within five years of the proposer's visa grant, and the applicant's relationship to the proposer must have been declared to the Department before the grant of the proposer's visa.