

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S
IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK**

Q305

Question: How many Bridging Visa Es have been issued to asylum seekers released into the community? Of those, how many have received an outcome of their refugee status assessment and had the bar lifted to allow them to apply for a visa?

What is the criteria that these asylum seekers have to meet in order for them to be eligible for a Bridging Visa E? How many have actually met that criteria?

If they have not met the criteria that requires them to be making arrangements to leave the country; or to have an application pending for a substantive visa, what criteria have they met?

Answer: At 6 March 2012, 615 Bridging Visa E (BVE) grants have been issued to Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs). Of those 615, 23 clients have had the s91K bar lifted to allow them to apply for a permanent protection visa.

BVEs are granted to IMAs in a staged and orderly manner, using a prioritisation model which considers people on a case by case basis. This includes the length of time a client has been in detention and the need for clients to satisfy health, security and behaviour requirements before being considered for the grant of a BVE.

Those who are not prioritised for consideration or fall outside the parameters for the grant of a BVE will have their protection claims considered whilst they remain in detention whether that be held detention or Community Detention. If a client is on a negative pathway, consideration regarding their removal will occur through established process.