

QUESTION ON NOTICE / Spoken

020 – Hearing 15 November 2021

Topic: Afghan aid workers

Senator Janet Rice

Question

Senator RICE: Just quickly, I'm interested in what the situation is with at-risk Afghani aid workers who worked in support of Australia's aid program. How many of those are still in Afghanistan? What's the profile of that cohort of people? How many applied for Australian humanitarian visas? How many Afghani aid workers have been resettled in Australia? I am happy for you to take that on notice if you haven't got those figures at your fingertips.

Mr Newnham: I will check with colleagues if we have that at our fingertips.

Mr Cowan: That might be best taken on notice.

Answer

As at 28 February 2022, of the Afghan aid workers who applied for certification as a Locally Engaged Employee (LEE) with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, decisions have been made on 236 applications. Of the 236, 43 were certified as meeting the criteria set out in the Legislative Instrument IMMI 12/127. Questions on resettlement and humanitarian visas are a responsibility of the Department of Home Affairs.