

Question on notice no. 142

Portfolio question number: AE22-142

2021-22 Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Nick McKim: asked the Department of Home Affairs on 14 February 2022

—

How many Afghan asylum seekers and refugees are currently in Papua New Guinea and Nauru?

a. Will these people be relocated to Australia given they cannot return to Afghanistan?

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES
14 FEBRUARY 2022**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
Department of Home Affairs**

Program 2.4: IMA Offshore Management

AE22-142 - Afghans in Offshore Immigration Detention

Senator Nick McKim asked:

How many Afghan asylum seekers and refugees are currently in Papua New Guinea and Nauru?

a. Will these people be relocated to Australia given they cannot return to Afghanistan?

Answer:

As at 31 December 2021, there were 18 Afghan nationals residing in Papua New Guinea and 8 in Nauru. All were found by the respective regional processing country to be refugees.

Consistent with Australia's border protection policies, these individuals will not be settled in Australia and should engage in third country resettlement options. As they were all determined to be refugees, involuntary removal to Afghanistan by the Governments of Papua New Guinea or Nauru is not a valid migration option.