

Question on notice no. 232

Portfolio question number: OBE22-232

2022-23 Budget estimates October and November

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Nick McKim: asked the Department of Home Affairs on 18 November 2022

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How many people seeking asylum are there in Australia who have no income safety net?

a. Please break down by visa subclass.

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES
OCTOBER 2022**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
Department of Home Affairs**

Program 2.3: Refugee Humanitarian, Settlement and Migrant Services

OBE22-232 - Asylum Seekers - No Income Safety Net

Senator Nick McKim asked:

How many people seeking asylum are there in Australia who have no income safety net?

a. Please break down by visa subclass.

Answer:

Protection visa applicants who are granted an associated Bridging visa, which allows them to remain lawful in the community while their visa application is being processed, may have access to a range of services offered by the Government such as Medicare and the public health system, education for school aged children, assistance with finding employment (if they have work rights), translating and interpreting services, and if eligible, the Australian Government's Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) Program. If a Bridging visa holder has work rights and has the capacity to work, they are expected to support themselves.

The SRSS program supports non-citizens as they engage with the Department to resolve their immigration status including people who have lodged valid protection visas. The program provides targeted assistance to eligible clients, such as financial assistance, accommodation, access to health care, access to education for school aged children, case worker support and case management.

On hand bridging visas for protection visa applicants as at 31 August 2022:

Protection visa applied for	Persons
Temporary Protection visa (subclass 785)	177
Safe Haven Enterprise visa (subclass 790)	1,187
Permanent Protection visa (subclass 866)	24,007