

Question on notice no. 38

Portfolio question number: BE18/062

2018-19 Budget estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Nick McKim: asked the Department of Home Affairs on 21 May 2018—

Senator McKIM: ... Is the department also aware of how many people and at what stage people are at in their individual pathways? For example, how many people have been interviewed for the first stage, how many people have had their security assessments done and how many have had their second interviews, and so forth?

Ms Newton: We are made aware of each of the visits from the US and what stage the person is at in terms of first and second interview.

Senator McKIM: Thank you. I am happy for you to take this on notice: could you provide that information perhaps as of today or the most recent data you have, as we sit here? So how many people have completed their first interview, how many people are in the security-checking process, how many people have completed the second interview and how many are awaiting a decision? Are they key points that you would have the data for, Ms Newton?

Ms Newton: We may have the majority of that data, but we'll provide what we can.

Senator McKIM: Whatever you can provide, that would be good.

...

Senator McKIM: Is it the case that people that are resettled in the US have the potential to be on a pathway to US citizenship?

Mr Pezzullo: Under US immigration law, I suspect that that would be the case, but I would need to check.

Answer —

As at 21 May 2018:

- More than 1300 refugees have attended pre-screening interviews conducted by the Resettlement Support Center (contracted by the United States (US) Department of Homeland Security).
- More than 1200 have attended second stage interviews conducted by the US Department of Homeland Security.
- Close to 250 refugees have resettled in the US.

The immigration pathway for refugees who have resettled in US under this program is a matter for the US Government.

