

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING:

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(32) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senators Humphries and Barnett (L&C 74 & 114) asked:

In relation to those on Christmas Island whose claims were refused, how many sought a merit review and how many have been successful? What is the cost associated with merits review?

Answer:

Of the 110 people who were assessed as not being refugees in the period 1 July 2009 to 31 January 2010, 97 have sought merits review.

- 11 of these people have been found to be refugees by an Independent Merits Reviewer
- 45 of these people have been found not to be refugees by an Independent Merits Reviewer
- 36 of these people have Independent Merits Reviews in progress
- 5 people withdrew their requests for Independent Merits Review and have departed Australia

The total cost associated with Independent Merits Review for the period 1 July 2009 to 31 January 2010 is \$73,938. This includes contract fees, reviewers' salaries, travel costs and incidentals.