

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE15/012) - RRT - Caseload -

Senator Reynolds, Linda (L&CA 27) asked:

Senator REYNOLDS: You also say that the RRT decisions were highest for applicants from China, India and Sri Lanka. Have any particular trends or issues emerged for the reasons that they have focused on those three countries?

Ms Ransome: No, I do not think so. In terms of trends it is very difficult to say why caseloads from particular countries. The China caseload in the RRT is pretty well an onshore caseload; it is people who have arrived in Australia on another visa at some point and who later make a claim for protection. The Sri Lanka caseload was primarily comprised of UMAs who came by boat.

Senator REYNOLDS: And India?

Ms Ransome: India—again, it is primarily an onshore caseload; people who came, for example, on a student visa in the past.

Senator REYNOLDS: So year to year would those categories change? Obviously Sri Lanka has come about because of the UMAs. Have you seen any trends in terms of where the applicants are from?

Ms Ransome: I may have to take that on notice, Senator—

Senator REYNOLDS: Please.

Answer:

There are changes from year to year in the cases that are lodged with the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT). Table A sets out the lodgements to the RRT by source country of the applicant for the year to 31 January 2015, and the two previous years.

Unauthorised maritime arrivals in the protection visa stream are a factor in this, as are processing priorities and case outcomes at the primary decision level.

There were increases in lodgements by applicants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran and Sri Lanka between 2012-13 and 2013-14 as the majority of applicants from these source countries were unauthorised maritime arrivals. China and India are traditionally large sources of onshore review lodgements for the RRT.

Table A: Top Ten RRT lodgements by source country

		% of all RRT lodgements		% of all RRT lodgements		% of all RRT lodgements
	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15 to 31 January	
1	Sri Lanka	17% (643 UMA, 58 non-UMA)	Sri Lanka	24% (1,553 UMA, 91 non-UMA)	China	17% (427 non-UMA)
2	China	14% (610 non-UMA)	China	13% (900 non-UMA)	India	13% (322 non-UMA)
3	Afghanistan	12% (503 UMA, 10 non-UMA)	Afghanistan	9% (635 UMA, 16 non-UMA)	Bangladesh	8% (133 UMA, 79 non-UMA)
4	India	10% (434 non-UMA)	India	8% (1 UMA, 574 non-UMA)	Pakistan	8% (27 UMA, 180 non-UMA)
5	Pakistan	8% (119 UMA, 213 non-UMA)	Pakistan	8% (230 UMA, 304 non-UMA)	Fiji	6% (147 non-UMA)
6	Iran	5% (165 UMA, 67 non-UMA)	Iran	7% (398 UMA, 112 non-UMA)	Sri Lanka	5% (93 UMA, 33 non-UMA)
7	Lebanon	5% (207 non-UMA)	Egypt	3% (203 non-UMA)	Iran	5% (92 UMA, 28 non-UMA)
8	Nepal	3% (1 UMA, 123 non-UMA)	Lebanon	3% (196 non-UMA)	Lebanon	4% (104 non-UMA)
9	Egypt	2% (103 non-UMA)	Fiji	3% (186 non-UMA)	Nepal	4% (7 UMA, 94 non-UMA)
10	Fiji	2% (101 non-UMA)	Nepal	3% (174 non-UMA)	Egypt	4% (100 non-UMA)

*UMA – Unauthorised Maritime Arrival