

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE15/088) – Visas granted to Syrians and Iraqis - Programme 2.1 Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance (Administered)

Senator Bilyk, Catryna (L&CA 127) asked:

Senator BILYK: How many of the Syrian nationals resettled through this arrangement came from refugee camps in neighbouring countries?

Mr Kukoc: I will take that on notice to provide exact numbers, but most of them would have come from refugee camps in neighbouring countries, be they Jordan, Turkey or Egypt.

Senator BILYK: How many visas, so far, have been allocated through the Special Humanitarian Program and how many were UNHCR referred?

Mr Kukoc: I do not have that exact number. I will take this on notice

Answer:

(a) There were 1,313 visas granted to Syrians in the 2014-15 offshore Humanitarian Programme at 23 February 2015. Applicants for these visas were located in the following countries at the time of application:

Location of applicant	Number of visas granted at 23 February 2015 to persons born in Syria ¹
Lebanon	994
Jordan	138
Egypt	87
Iraq	32
Syria ²	29
Turkey	25
Malaysia	7
Indonesia	1
Total	1 313

Data was extracted from DIBP systems on 10 March 2015

The Department does not collect information which can be aggregated for reporting purposes on whether people granted visas in the offshore Humanitarian Programme are living in refugee camps or within the community of the host country.

¹ The country of birth of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.

² Applications were lodged by applicants when they were still residing in Syria but further processing finalised and visas granted after their arrival in Lebanon.

(b) At 23 February 2015, 1,313 visas had been granted to Syrians in the 2014-15 offshore Humanitarian Programme, of which 897 were granted in the Special Humanitarian Programme category and 416 in the Refugee stream. 1,318 visas had been granted to Iraqis over the same period, of which 835 were granted in the Special Humanitarian Programme category and 483 were granted in the Refugee stream.