

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 27 February 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE17/063) - Number of Hazaras given negative refugee status or determinations - Programme 2.4: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA 109) asked:

Senator McKIM: I will ask similar questions in relation to Hazaras who have originated in Afghanistan—obviously the situation is deteriorating quite significantly for Hazara people in Afghanistan. Would you be able to provide a synopsis of the latest country information guidance provided to DIBP officers on the issue of persecution of Hazara people in Afghanistan?

Mr Pezzullo: I will take it on notice in the same way that we have taken the Tamil question on notice.

*Answer:*

Decision makers are provided with a broad range of readily accessible open-source Country of Origin Information (COI) to assist them to arrive at an independent assessment of an applicant's claim. Afghanistan is a significant caseload for the Department and is monitored on a daily basis.

Country information on Afghanistan is available to all decision-makers and reviewers through a searchable COI database (CISNET) which contains a broad range of open-source material including local and international media, Government and Non-Government Organisation reporting, scholarly and other expert opinion and social media. The COI holdings are monitored and updated daily.

Between 1 January 2016 and 6 April 2017, specialised research officers completed 60 Afghan research products and uploaded 2,461 Afghan related documents to CISNET. This includes COI products directed at the Afghan Hazara caseload, regularly updated thematic papers focused on Hazaras and a Q&A service available to all decision-makers.