

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANISATION

Question No. 50

Senator Hanson-Young asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2012:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I want to go to the issue of adverse security assessments of asylum seekers and refugees. I just want to see firstly whether you keep figures on the numbers of people you have given adverse assessments to who are currently applying for permanent protection visas, and if so could I have those numbers?

Mr Irvine: I have to make sure that I am answering your question exactly. We have given 59 adverse assessments amongst the IMA cohort. In fact, that was at 30th of last month. There may be a couple more.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Okay, so that would have been 30th April.

Mr Irvine: Yes.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And out of those 59, do you have the ages of those people?

Mr Irvine: We would have the ages of those people, but I can assure you that out of those 59 there may be some debate over one or two. I would have to get the actual ages for you.

...

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: If you could take that on notice that would be handy.

Mr Irvine: That is, adverse assessees?

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) is responsible for determining the age of irregular maritime arrivals (IMAs). In many cases, IMAs provide more than one date of birth or provide updated advice as to their dates of birth either before, during or following the security assessment process. DIAC is the appropriate agency to provide advice regarding the ages of IMAs at a particular point in time.