

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

#### **(BE14/294) PROGRAMME – 3.5 and 3.6 Illegal Maritime Arrival (IMA) Offshore Management**

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

In an interview dated 3 March 2014 Minister Morrison reported on the progress of Refugee Status Determinations on PNG and the subsequent resettlement arrangements being negotiated between the Australian and PNG Governments.

- a. How many asylum decisions have been handed down to date?
- b. How many asylum seekers have been determined to be refugees?
- c. How many have been denied recognition of refugee status?
- d. Of those denied recognition of refugee status, how many are under review?
- e. How many have voluntarily been returned to their country of origin or place of habitual residence?
- f. How many have refused to be voluntarily repatriated?
- g. What are the details of the legislative changes that are/have been discussed?

*Answer:*

As at 31 May 2014:

- a) No final refugee status determination decisions had been handed down by the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG). 41 initial assessment notices had been handed down. This is a step prior to final determination hand downs.
- b) No final refugee status determinations had been handed down. 19 transferees had received a positive initial assessment notice.
- c) No final refugee status determinations had been handed down. 22 transferees had received a negative initial assessment notice.
- d) There were transferees whose cases were being reviewed under the merits review process. 14 transferees were preparing applications for merits review.
- e) 278 transferees had voluntarily returned to their country of origin from the Manus Offshore Processing Centre.
- f) Nil. It is voluntary.
- g) This is a matter for the Government of PNG.