

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/082) - Resettlement - Syrians - Programme 2.4: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Seselja, Zed (L&CA 67) asked:

Ms Noble: I understand that the government has committed to resettle at least 4,500 Syrians in total over three years from 2014-15 to 2016-17 as well.

Senator SESELJA: That is separate from the 4,400 that is split between Iraq and Syria—is that correct?

Mr Wilden: This year there is 2,200 places for Syrians and 2,200 places for Iraqis. Given the commitment is for 4,500 Syrians in total over three program years from last year, that would include the 2,200 from this year. So there would be an additional 2,300 over the next two program years.

Senator SESELJA: Those percentages that you spoke about—the 47 per cent Christian and 39.3 per cent et cetera—of the 4,400 that are due to be done this year, that was up to April, how many in actual numbers have been done up until 30 April when you gave those figures?

Mr Wilden: I would have to go back and reconcile those and provide those on notice

Answer:

The Government has committed to providing 2 200 places for Syrians and 2 200 places for Iraqis in the 2014-15 offshore Humanitarian Programme.

In addition, the Government has committed to providing 4 500 places for Syrians over three years (including the 2014-15 programme year).

The figures provided by Mr Wilden to Senator Seselja related to the religious composition of all persons granted visas in the offshore Humanitarian Programme at 30 April 2015, not just in relation to Syrians and Iraqis.

The total number of visas granted in the offshore Humanitarian Programme at 30 April 2015 was 9 314, of which 1 771 were to Syrians and 1 886 were to Iraqis.