

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/088) - Rohingya refugees - Programme 2.4: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA 77) asked:

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could you tell me how many Rohingya refugees have been resettled and referred through the UNHCR in both Indonesia and Malaysia? Mr Pezzullo:

Sorry, Senator, was that from those countries or—

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes. They are people who have been registered by the UNHCR in Indonesia and Malaysia and then have been resettled here.

Mr Pezzullo: Do you mean those resettled through the regular referral process—

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes.

Mr Pezzullo: or those who, subsequently, have taken to sea and got on boats and arrived as IMAs?

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: No, I mean those who have been referred to us through the UNHCR.

Mr Pezzullo: We will take that on notice as well.

Answer:

During the period 1 July 2012 to 26 May 2015, there were nine visas granted to people in the offshore Humanitarian Programme who self-identified as being of Rohingya ethnicity and who were located in Malaysia. There were no people who self-identified as being of Rohingya ethnicity granted visas over this period who were located in Indonesia.

All nine visas granted to persons in Malaysia were in the Refugee stream and granted after referral by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.