

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(BE15/089) - Refugee resettlement - Programme 2.4: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

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

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you. Could you update me as to how many Syrian refugees Australia has resettled. The Prime Minister had given a commitment to resettle 4,000. I would like to know how many we have actually taken to date.

Mr Wilden: The government allocated 2,200 places for Syrians in the 2014-15 year. It has committed between 2014-15 and over the next three program to settle a total of 4½ thousand Syrians.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: There was a commitment for 2,200?

Mr Wilden: Yes, 2,200.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: How many have actually been resettled to date?

Mr Wilden: Given that we are only part of the way through the program year, I will have to get the latest numbers.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: We are nearly finished the program year. It is May so we have one month left to go.

Mr Wilden: Correct, but I do not have a month by month running total with me. I am happy to provide information on notice to the end of last month.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: If you could that would be helpful. Could I also ask how many Yazidi refugees have been resettled in the last financial year?

Mr Pezzullo: Yazidi, Senator ?

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes, thank you.

Mr Pezzullo: Unless the officer has—

Mr Wilden: No, we will need to take that on notice as well.

Mr Pezzullo: We will take it on notice.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: What was the commitment from the Prime Minister? Was it 1,000?

Mr Wilden: I would have to check that.

*Answer:*

The Government 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 committed to providing at least 4 500 places in the offshore Humanitarian Programme for Syrians over three years (including the 2014-15 programme year).

As of 31 May 2015, 2 150 Syrians and 1 933 Iraqis had been granted visas in the 2014-15 offshore Humanitarian Programme.

The religion recorded for visa applicants is based on the applicant's Self-identification.

Whilst the government has not made a separate commitment to the government has not made a separate commitment resettle specific numbers according to religious denominations, some Syrian and Iraqi resettled as of May 2015 were Christian minorities.

Refugees are referred to Australia by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) where they have been assessed and are in need of resettlement due to their vulnerabilities.