

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/146) - Palestinian refugees in Syria - Programme 2.4: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Rhiannon, Lee (L&CA) written:

- "1. What assistance is being provided to Palestinians who have been displaced from refugee camps in Syria?
- 2. Is it the case that Palestinians registered with UNWRA and not UNHCR have more limited options with finding refuge in another country?
- 3. Does Australia's refugee intake only accept refugees registered with UNHCR?
- 4. Does this mean most Palestine refugees are excluded?
- 5. For the last five years please supply the annual figures for the number of Palestinian refugees who have been allowed to settle in Australia?
- 6. Have any Palestinian refugees registered with UNWRA been allowed to settle in Australia?

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Answer:

- 1. The Department is unable to comment as it does not have oversight of United Nations (UN) operations in Syria.
- 2. The Department is unable to respond as this is a matter for UN agencies.
- 3. Although priority is given to refugees who have been recognised by UNHCR, this is not a requirement for grant under the Humanitarian Programme.
- 4. Answered by previous response.
- 5. Between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2015, 119 who identified themselves as Palestinians have been granted visas under the Humanitarian Programme.

Humanitarian visa grants to Palestinians over the last six financial years

2009 - 10	2010 - 11	2011 - 12	2012 - 13	2013 - 14	2014 - 15
27	2	8	22	34	26

- 6. It is possible that some of those Palestinians who have resettled in Australia were registered with UNWRA.