

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/166) - Unlawful air arrivals - Programme 2.2: Migration

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

- \$21m funding for Asylum Seeker Assistance scheme for air arrivals (in contrast, arrivals by boat receive no assistance)
 - o What is the rate of recognition of refugee status of air arrivals as compared with boat arrivals?
 - o Why is assistance being provided to air arrivals but not boat arrivals?

Answer:

The Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme (which is now delivered as Band 6 of the new Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) programme) provides the same support to both Illegal Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) and non-IMAs. The only difference between the two cohorts is the portfolio outcomes under which they are funded. Non-IMAs are supported under Outcome 2.1 and IMAs are supported under Outcome 1.4.

The \$21 million funding increase in the Asylum Seeker Assistance Scheme in Outcome 2.1 is to reflect the anticipated number of non-IMAs that will require support during 2015-16 and the length of time they are expected to require this assistance. It does not reflect a change in the comparative level of service for IMAs and non-IMAs.

Due to the recent changes in legislation, processing for the legacy caseload of IMAs has only just begun and it is too early to provide data on how many meet Australia's protection obligations.