

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 May 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(BE17/094) - Legacy caseload - Legal assistance migration agents - Programme 2.4: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA 39) asked:

Senator McKIM: Of current lodgements, do you know how many have been represented by a migration agent?

Ms Lauman: It is a very difficult figure to discern. As a large number of people are being assisted by pro bono service providers who are only assisting up to the point of lodgement, the rate of declaration of agents, which is what we would normally use to collect that information, is not a true sense of people who are receiving advice in one form or another.

Mr Pezzullo: But, insofar as we know that there are agents involved, they are declared to us, so we can answer the question in relation to the data that we have about the knowns.

Senator McKIM: The ones that have been declared—

Mr Pezzullo: We will take that on notice.

*Answer:*

At 24 May 2017, of the 20,781 illegal maritime arrivals with applications remaining to be processed in the Legacy Caseload, 13,411 (64.5%) declared they have been represented by a migration agent at some stage of their processing. This includes people who advised the Department they were being assisted by a migration agent but had not have not yet lodged a valid temporary protection visa application. It does not include where assistance has been provided but not declared, such as that provided pro bono.