

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 May 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE17/118) - Legacy Caseload bar lifting - total and breakdown - Programme 2.4: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA 77) asked:

Senator McKIM: I am interested in how many people of the legacy caseload cohort were invited to apply—that is, had the bar lifted, to use that terminology—by particular dates. The dates are June 2016, September 2016 and December 2016. Do you have that here or do you need to take it on notice?

Mr Pezzullo: We might well have it here. I think the last mass lifting was October.

Senator McKIM: Yes, and that would come in the last of those periods.

Mr Pezzullo: There were some in December that I think Ms Lauman mentioned, but I will refer your question to her.

Ms Lauman: Those December letters were renotifications—where people had contacted the department to say, 'I have not yet received my initial letter.' So the bar had in fact been lifted for those individuals prior to that.

Senator McKIM: I understand that differentiation, thank you.

Ms Lauman: What I have here, unfortunately, is not added up. So I might need to take that on notice. But we do have it and can provide it during the course of the afternoon.

Senator McKIM: That is fine, thank you. Were you looking for someone with a calculator, Mr Pezzullo? I am happy for that to come on notice as part of the normal process. My next questions drill down into subcohorts, if I can put it like that. Please tell me, if you can, how many people seeking asylum who have commenced judicial review of a departmental decision—this is still in the legacy caseload—are living in the community without a bridging visa?

Mr Pezzullo: I think that technically everyone should be on a bridging visa at least, but I will get Ms Zakharoff to turn her mind to that.

Ms Zakharoff: There will be a small number who are not. To be safe, I will take that on notice.

Senator McKIM: Okay. Could I ask you for the total number—

Ms Zakharoff: The total and the breakdown.

Senator McKIM: and the legacy caseload number as well.

Ms Zakharoff: Yes.

Senator McKIM: So the total in the Australian community under judicial review or who have commenced it without a bridging visa, and then also how many of them are in the legacy caseload cohort. Thank you

Answer:

The number of people in the illegal maritime arrival (IMA) Legacy Caseload who had their bar lifted and were invited to apply for a Temporary Protection or Safe Heaven Enterprise visa was (cumulatively):

- (a) 12,898 by the end of June 2016;
- (b) 21,620 by the end of September 2016; and
- (c) 21,884 by the end of December 2016.

This figure does not include some 3,700 IMAs who had the bar lifted and were sent a letter of referral to the Primary Application Information Service (PAIS).

The vast majority of bar lifts were completed by September 2016.