

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 27 NOVEMBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/332) PROGRAMME – 2.1: and 2.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

- Can you provide separate figures for asylum seekers on bridging visas, breaking down the figures based on those with work rights and those without?
- How is statelessness recorded in Department statistics?
- How many people have been resettled through Australia's humanitarian program who were or are stateless?
- Is there a plan to resolve the immigration status of stateless people who have been found not to be owed protection by Australia?

Answers:

- The breakdown of asylum seekers on bridging visas with access to work rights is as follows:

	<i>IMA</i>	<i>Non-IMA</i>
<i>With work rights</i>	<i>4948</i>	<i>8511</i>
<i>Without work rights</i>	<i>20,136</i>	<i>5761</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>25,084</i>	<i>14,272</i>

* Due to different data sources the data for IMA is as at cob 27 November 2014 and the data for non-IMA is as at 28 November 2014.

- Statelessness is a value that can be chosen from a list of options for citizenship in departmental systems.

- The number of stateless persons resettled through Australia's humanitarian programme is as follows:

	<i>2009-10</i>	<i>2010-11</i>	<i>2011-12</i>	<i>2012-13</i>	<i>2013-14</i>	<i>2014-15*</i>	<i>Total</i>
IMA	172	485	640	468	80	0	1845
Non-IMA	15	16	16	37	23	5	112
<i>Total Onshore</i>	187	501	656	505	103	5	1957
Offshore	21	0	45	17	21	3	107

* Due to different data sources 2014-15 data for the onshore component of the Humanitarian programme is as at 28 November 2014. The 2014-15 data for the offshore component is as at 30 November 2014.

Note: For offshore data the ethnicity of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.

- Where a person who claims to be stateless is found not to be owed protection in Australia the department seeks to establish whether they have right of residence in any other country.

Where the department establishes that a person has a right of residence in the country against which they made protection claims, it will follow normal procedures to resolve the person's immigration status. This may involve removal from Australia. Alternatively, where evidence suggests the person has a right of residence in a third country, the department will again follow normal procedures for resolving the person's immigration status, including possible removal to that country.

In cases where the department is satisfied the person is stateless and the person has no right of residence in any country, the department may seek the Minister's views on alternative resolution options within Australia. These options may include the Minister using his personal powers to grant the person a temporary or permanent visa to remain in Australia.