

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 19 October 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE15/042) - Settlement Statistics- Refugees finding jobs - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management

Senator Lindgren (L&CA 113) asked:

Senator LINDGREN: Can you update us on settlement statistics, including on refugees finding jobs. Can you give us a brief outline of the type of jobs and skill sets and how that has impacted on the Australian economy.

Mr Pezzullo: In Australia?

Senator LINDGREN: Yes.

Mr Pezzullo: I am not sure about the multiplier effect on the economy. Depending on how far back you want to go, Australia has taken something like 850,000 refugees going back to 1945. I am not quite sure what time frame you have in mind.

Senator LINDGREN: From 2012-13 onwards.

Mr Pezzullo: We will see if we can provide some information about those who have been accepted under our program. I just need to specify that there is a permanent program run by the department. It has been on foot for 70-odd years. It goes right back to the Second World War. That is where refugees either come in through referrals from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees or are sponsored under the Special Humanitarian Program. There have been tens of thousands in recent years. We will get you the statistics for financial year 2012-13. For those potential refugees who will have claims considered but who arrived after a particular day in August 2012 as illegal maritime arrivals, by law they cannot be afforded permanent protection. So they sit under a different regime which is known as temporary protection. Currently we have some 30,000 cases on foot that are the legacy, as it were, of that peak in illegal maritime arrivals. We will need to get you statistics for the 2012-13 financial year for the permanent program.

Senator LINDGREN: Thank you.

Mr Pezzullo: I need to correct something. In 2012-13 we did not have the temporary program. So we will also get you advice for how many refugees were settled in that year who arrived by illegal maritime means.

Answer:

Statistics relating to the settlement of refugees including employment are the responsibility of the Department of Social Services.

According to Department of Immigration and Border Protection Systems, the following is a table outlining the number of permanent visa grants in the Humanitarian Programme from 2012–13 financial year onwards:

Year	Offshore			Onshore			Total Programme
	Refugee	SHP (Special Humanitarian Programme)	Sub-total offshore	IMA (people who arrived as Illegal Maritime Arrivals)	non-IMA (people who did not arrive as IMAs)	Sub-total onshore	
2012–13	11985	503	12488	4996	2514	7510	19998
2013–14	6499	4507	11006	546	2207	2753	13759
2014–15	6002	5007	11009	1	2746	2747	13756

Figures for previous years were officially revised at the end of 2014-15 and due to possible changes in information recorded in departmental systems may differ from statistics previously published.