

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(SE16/071) - Refugee status determination - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management**

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA) written:

Can you outline what the Refugee Status Determination process is for people currently on Manus Island?

Is there a Merits or Judicial review - if so, who is on the Merits Review Board (or PNG equivalent)? What are the timeframes for a merits/judicial review?

In regard to Refugee Status Determination in PNG, can you advise the number of people by month who have received a negative final determination since August 2015?

Since April 2016 to now can you advise by month the number of people on Manus Island who have received:

- confirmed positive determination,
- are yet to be confirmed

*Answer:*

The refugee determination (RD) process in Papua New Guinea (PNG) is managed and administered by the PNG Government, with final decisions made by the PNG Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration.

PNG Immigration and Citizenship Service Authority (ICSA) RD officers assess transferee protection applications. This process includes an RD interview. Claims Assistance is provided to transferees throughout this process by contracted providers.

Transferees who receive a negative initial assessment may apply for an independent merits review of the initial assessment within 28 days. Merits review processes are on a case by case basis, and the PNG Government has no set timeframe within which merits reviews or ministerial final determinations must occur.

A further 193 individuals are yet to receive an MFD. Of this number, 39 people are in either Australia or Port Moresby for medical reasons.