

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE16/078) - OSB JATF - August update - Operation Sovereign Borders

Senator McKim, Nick (L&CA) written:

The August OSB update refers to 6 Sri Lankan nationals: What was done to assess their claims for protection?

Was this done in person by Australian personnel on water, how long were the interviews?

Were they brought to Australian territory before being returned?

Answer:

The persons concerned were interviewed in person and assessed to determine whether their return to Sri Lanka would be consistent with Australia's non-refoulement obligations. This process confirmed they could be safely returned.

Interviews vary in length and the time taken depends on individual circumstances.