

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 FEBRUARY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(14) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Fierravanti-Wells (L&CA 46) asked:

I understand that in 2007–08 certain individuals were granted humanitarian stay temporary visas – safe haven visas. Is that the case?

Answer:

In 2007–08, 83 Humanitarian Stay (Temporary) subclass 449 (safe haven) visas were granted. These same 83 persons were later granted Temporary (Humanitarian Concern) subclass 786 visas after the Minister agreed to lift the application bar that prevents a person who has held a subclass 449 visa from applying for another visa type.

In November 2008, the Minister lifted the application bar and offered those holders of subclass 786 visas the opportunity to apply for a Resolution of Status subclass 851 visa.

All 122 persons accepted the Minister's offer and their applications are at various stages of processing, with some having been granted visas.