

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(127) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Humphries asked:

What percentage of detainees that were successful with their application for asylum were able to substantiate their claim with supplementary documentation?

Answer:

Asylum seekers often arrive in Australia with limited or no documentation. Decision makers must investigate claims through in depth questioning at interview. Some checks are also done through other parties, for example UNHCR and countries with whom Australia has biometric data sharing arrangements, to assist in verifying identity, nationality, prior protection or criminal records. Decision makers must assess the credibility of claims as weighed against other information relevant to the case, including country of origin information. However, DIAC does not collect or aggregate statistics on the percentage of people that were successful with their application for asylum who were able to substantiate their claim with supplementary documentation.