

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(137) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Abetz asked:

1) Is this the first time in Australia's recent history of the past 10 -15 years that the number of boat people arriving in Australia seeking asylum is now overtaking the number that come by all other means than by boat?

2) In what previous year did boat people numbers exceed those arriving through other means?

Answer:

According to DIAC systems data, as at 25 February 2011 the number of people arriving in Australia by boat and seeking asylum was 3,460. The number of asylum seekers arriving by other means to 25 February 2011 was 4,027.

In each of the program years 1996-97 to 2010-11 the number of people arriving in Australia by boat and seeking asylum was less than the number that came by other means.

Asylum seekers by program year from 1 July 1996 to 25 February 2011

Program year	Non-IMA PV applications lodged*	IMAs [#]	Total
1996-97	11097	364	11461
1997-98	8058	157	8215
1998-99	8081	919	9000
1999-00	8141	4175	12316
2000-01	8861	4137	12998
2001-02	7028	3049	10077
2002-03	4961	1	4962
2003-04	3485	68	3553
2004-05	3061	0	3061
2005-06	3190	57	3247
2006-07	3722	96	3818
2007-08	3987	25	4012
2008-09	5074	985	6059
2009-10	5978	5316	11294
2010-11 [^]	4027	3460	7487

* Applications lodged in the program year and include a small number of multiple applications lodged by some applicants.

[#] Figures prior to 2008-09 include small numbers of crew and only those who intended to seek asylum. Figures reported previously may vary due to different methodologies.

[^] To 25 February 2011

Source: DIAC systems data