

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(156) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash asked:

In response to question 56 the department lists 129 people in mainland detention centres who are awaiting removal. Of those, 18 are designated as “stateless” – where are they going to be sent?

Answer:

A person may be listed as ‘stateless’ on the basis that they claim to not be a national of any country; or their claims about their nationality are yet to be resolved by the Department or confirmed by the other country concerned.

The department can only remove a person to a country which is prepared to provide that person with a right of entry and stay. This is usually on the basis of the receiving country accepting that the person is a national of that country. Where a person claims to be stateless, the Department undertakes investigations to resolve this issue.