

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(274) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash asked:

How many people are awaiting primary decision? What percentage of them have been waiting for more than 3 months? 6 months? Longer?

Answer:

In relation to non-irregular maritime arrivals, as at 25 February 2011 there were 2920 Protection visa applications awaiting a primary decision. Of these, 752 (26 per cent) had been waiting for more than 6 months since lodgement and a further 880 (30 per cent) had been onhand for more than 3 months but less than 6 months since lodgement.

In relation to irregular maritime arrivals, as at 28 February 2011 (according to data extracted from DIAC systems on 11 April 2011) there were 2350 people awaiting the result of their primary refugee status assessment.

In relation to irregular maritime arrivals, system reporting on processing times is not currently available, but is in development. When such reporting becomes available, the information can be provided to the committee.