

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(98) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (L&CA 53) asked:

How many (a) Afghan asylum seekers are there currently in Australia and (b) how many have had their applications rejected after going through the legal process?

Answer:

(a) As at 25 February 2011, there were some 1817 Afghan asylum seekers (both IMA¹ and non-IMA) with an application or request in process.

(b) As at 25 February 2011, 12 non-IMA Afghan nationals have had their claims for asylum finally determined², the majority of whom were either seeking judicial review or had requested Ministerial Intervention.

In relation to IMAs, as at 28 February 2011 there were 89 Afghan asylum seekers in Australia who had had their request for refugee status refused after Independent Merits Review (IMR) and, following the High Court of Australia decision of November 2010, were eligible to seek judicial review.

¹ Irregular Maritime Arrival

² An application is considered to be finally determined after a final decision from the department or merits review tribunal. Those that did not lodge a review application within the specified timeframe are considered finally determined.