

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0263) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash asked:

How many known members of the Tamil Tigers are currently in immigration detention? Where are they? How many have applied for administrative and/or judicial review of negative decisions? How many known Tamil Tigers have received permanent protection visas? Why?

Answer:

Manual interrogation of a large number of case files would be required to provide the information requested. For example, in the period from October 2008 to 31 January 2012, 693 Sri Lankan irregular maritime arrivals have been granted Protection visas. Some, but not all of this cohort, may have been past or present members of, or associated with, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

As part of the refugee status determination process, an assessment is made as to whether a person may be subject to the 'exclusion' provisions of the Refugees Convention.

Protection visas are only granted where security and character requirements have been met.