

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/280) PROGRAMME – 2.1 Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Ms Larkins said in November estimates the broad allocations within the government's 11,000 offshore places were still being determined and considered by government – can you please provide a further update?

Can you outline from where these allocations will be coming (countries of origin)?

How many onshore protection visas have been lodged?

How many offshore protection visas have been granted?

Of those lodged, can you please provide the background to the application?

Answer:

The 11 000 place offshore component planning level contains 6 500 places for the Refugee category and 4 500 places for the Special Humanitarian Programme (SHP). To 28 February 2014, the top five countries of birth of those granted visas under the offshore component were Afghanistan, Burma, Iraq, Bhutan and Iran.

To 28 February 2014, there have been 6581 applications for permanent Protection visas under the onshore component of the 2013–14 Humanitarian Programme. To date, the top five citizenships of the people who made applications for permanent Protection visas under the onshore component in 2013–14 are China (PRC), India, Pakistan, Egypt and Fiji.

Please note that the Protection visa is a Class XA visa granted under the onshore component of the Humanitarian Programme. The offshore component is for Class XB visas that are either Refugee category visas or Special Humanitarian Programme visas.

To 28 February 2014, there have been 5 721 visas granted under the offshore component of the 2013–14 Humanitarian Programme with the top five countries of birth noted above.