

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(76) Program 3.1: Border Management

Senator Joyce asked:

- (1) How many boats carrying Hazara people have been apprehended?
- (2) Since 2000, how many refugees have arrived 'illegally' by boat in Australia?
- (3) Of those, how many were from Afghanistan?
- (4) Of those, how many were Hazara?

Answer:

- (1) In 2008-09 (to 16 June 2009), 15 boats carrying Afghans have arrived in Australia. Data on the nationality of unauthorised boat arrivals, not their ethnicity, is collated.
- (2) From January 2000 to 16 June 2009, there have been 9,490 unauthorised boat arrivals (including the 5 who died at sea). Additionally there were seven persons who were rescued at sea and were subsequently found to be refugees.
- (3) Of the 9,490 unauthorised boat arrivals from January 2000 to 16 June 2009, 4,199 were from Afghanistan. The majority of these Afghan arrivals were in 2000 (1,061 arrivals) and 2001 (2,596 arrivals).
- (4) As noted above in (1), data on the nationality of unauthorised boat arrivals, not their ethnicity, is collated.