

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 MAY 2009**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(77) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Joyce asked:

- (1) What percentage of all Afghan asylum seekers are Hazara?
- (2) What percentage of all asylum seekers attempting to enter Australia by boat are Hazara?
- (3) Of the Hazara people apprehended, how many came to Australia directly from Afghanistan?
- (4) How many came via Pakistan?

*Answer:*

- (1) Departmental records show that some 70% of Protection visa applications by Afghan asylum seekers have been from Afghans who have self-identified as Hazara.
- (2) Departmental records show that some 28% of asylum seekers attempting to enter Australia by boat have self-identified as Hazara.
- (3) There are no direct air or sea routes between Afghanistan and Australia. All arrivals must transit another country before reaching Australia.
- (4) This information is not stored in any departmental database and would require separate compilation of the information from an examination of each individual case file.