

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 26 MAY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(40) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Humphries (L&C 75) asked:

Has the UNHCR referred any Afghan cases in Pakistan to Australia? If you establish that there were such cases could you tell me when the last one was done?

Answer:

The UNHCR refers cases of Afghan refugees in Pakistan to the Dubai post for consideration for resettlement in Australia. Responsibility for the processing of applications made by refugees in Pakistan under the Humanitarian Program was transferred from the Australian High Commission in Islamabad to the Australian Consulate-General in Dubai in November 2008.

In the 2009–10 Program year to 31 May 2010, 44 Refugee category visas have been granted to Afghan refugees by the Dubai post. Forty three of these visas were granted to vulnerable refugee women and their dependants under the Woman at Risk visa subclass.