

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 26 MAY 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### (48) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Parry (L&C 78) asked:

What is the acceptance rate by nationality of onshore protection claims and how does that compare with acceptance rates in the United Kingdom and in North America?

*Answer:*

Table 1 below sets out, for the top eight nationalities, primary decisions (grants and refusals) and primary grant rates arising from applications for Protection visas by non-Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) for the full year 2008-09 and 2009-10 to 11 June 2010.

Changes in grant rates between years may reflect, in part, changes in circumstances in countries of origin or changes in the composition of particular caseloads.

**Table 1: Non-IMA Protection visa primary decisions and grant rates**

Nationality	2008-09		2009-10	
	Primary decisions	Primary grant rate	Primary decisions	Primary grant rate
Afghanistan	51	92%	81	90%
China (PRC)	1202	15%	1093	20%
Egypt	91	42%	129	46%
Iran	158	84%	219	88%
Iraq	174	88%	184	91%
Pakistan	210	66%	233	71%
Sri Lanka	417	80%	243	67%
Zimbabwe	252	76%	292	75%

Source: DIAC systems data as at 11 June 2010

Table 2 below sets out, for the top five nationalities, primary Refugee Status Assessment (RSA) decisions (approvals and refusals) and acceptance rates for Irregular Maritime Arrivals for the full year 2008-09 and 2009-10 to 11 June 2010.

There has been a steady decline in the primary acceptance rates of the main source countries over the past few months, in particular since March-April 2010, due to significant and emerging changes in country information.

**Table 2: IMA Refugee Status Assessment primary decisions and primary acceptance rates**

Nationality	2008-09		2009-10	
	Primary decisions	Primary acceptance rate	Primary decisions	Primary acceptance rate
Afghanistan	178	99%	1703	84%
Iran	10	40%	91	60%
Iraq	21	81%	203	65%
Pakistan	0	0%	14	36%
Sri Lanka	14	29%	412	69%
Stateless	3	100%	253	66%

Source: DIAC data as at 11 June 2010

Comparisons between Australian grant rates and acceptance rates in other countries are extremely difficult for a variety of reasons. These reasons include different systems of refugee status determination, differences in calculation methods, and differences in the characteristics of the caseload (such as difference in ethnicity or religion).