

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23-24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0145) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (L&CA 118) asked:

Provide an analysis to date of how many visa applications have been processed within the 90 days and how many were not within the 90 days?

Answer:

There are no statutory requirements to process asylum claims for irregular maritime arrivals within a prescribed timeframe. A 90 day statutory timeframe for assessment of onshore protection claims has been adopted as a standard operating guide for the primary Refugee Status Assessment (RSA) process.

An examination of manually maintained data shows that the total number of primary RSA decisions made from 1 July 2010 to 23 May 2011 was 5441. Of these, 1412 primary RSA decisions were made within 90 days.

Historical data in relation to these processing times is not available for technical reasons.