

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0230) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash asked:

How many primary RSA decisions were made within the Government's stated target of 90 days in the 2010-2011 period to date?

Answer:

There are no statutory requirements to process asylum claims for Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) 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 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.