

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(46) Output 1.2: Refugee and humanitarian entry and stay

Senator Nettle asked:

- (1) How many of the asylum seekers in Indonesia have relatives in Australia?
- (2) How many asylum seekers in Indonesia are under the care of IOM and being paid for by Australia?
- (3) How many people were 'pushed back' from Australia during Operation Relex?

Answer:

- (1) We are aware of about 60 persons in the care of either IOM or UNHCR in Indonesia who have relatives living in Australia and have made an application for a visa to Australia. As at 30 November 2005, twenty-seven of these persons had been granted visas and were awaiting travel.
- (2) At 30 November 2005, 305 people were in the care of IOM in Indonesia.
- (3) According to the report of the Senate Select Committee on a Certain Maritime Incident, there were 502 prospective illegal immigrants aboard the four suspected illegal entry vessels that were redirected under Operation Relex.