

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(75) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What input does UNHCR have in the process to determine the number of refugee and humanitarian places in our migration program?

Answer:

The Australian Government decides the number of places under the Refugee category and which groups of people will be accepted for resettlement to Australia.

Taking into consideration global humanitarian need, Australia works closely with UNHCR to select refugee caseloads for resettlement.

UNHCR provides an annual submission to the Australian Government outlining the number of refugees in need of resettlement by individual caseload and country of asylum.

The allocation of the places under the Refugee category is:

- guided by UNHCR's submission;
- takes into consideration information from Australian missions overseas which are responsible for the processing and grant of Refugee visas.