

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(234) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash asked:

- 1) What is the average length of time between a primary decision and a review decision?
- 2) What is the average time taken between a negative decision on appeal or uncontested at the primary level and voluntary return?

Answer:

- 1) For the period October 2008 to October 2010, as at 27 October 2010, the average time between a negative Refugee Status Assessment (RSA) outcome and an Independent Merits Review (IMR) outcome was 120 days.
- 2) The RSA database does not distinguish between voluntary and involuntary removals. However, as at 27 October:
 - the average time between a negative IMR outcome and removal from Australia (both voluntary and involuntary) was 46 days.
 - the average time between a negative RSA outcome where review has not been sought and removal from Australia (both voluntary and involuntary) was 29 days.