

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(60) Program 3.1: Border Management

Senator Cash (L&CA 59) asked:

How many IMAs arriving in Australia in 2009-10 reported paying a people smuggler to arrange their passage to Australia?

Answer:

Based on information obtained through the entry interview of 5209 irregular maritime arrivals (IMAs) for the 2009-10 financial year, 4605 (or 88.5 percent) claim they paid a people smuggler to arrange their passage to Australia.

This includes those IMAs who claim they paid in jewellery rather than in cash and those who said a family member/partner paid for the voyage on their behalf and, as such, they were unaware of the amount paid.