

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0215) Program 2.1: Irregular Maritime Arrivals

Senator Cash asked:

How many Iranians have arrived by boat since the 1 January 2011? How many arrived in 2010-2011 financial year? Why is this?

Answer:

From 1 January 2011 to COB 30 September 2011, 1030 Iranians had arrived by boat. In the 2010-2011 financial year a total of 1619 Iranians arrived by boat. Available country information indicates that in Iran many Iranians continue to experience racial, political and economic discrimination and women face inequality in law and practice. This has resulted in high numbers of clients seeking asylum.