

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011**

**IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

**(SE11/0231) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Cash (L&CA written) asked:

How many known Tamil Tigers have received permanent Protection visas?  
Why?

*Answer:*

Immigration systems do not allow reporting on membership of specific political organisations. Manual interrogation of a large number of case files would be required to provide the information requested. For example, since November 2008, 684 Sri Lankan irregular maritime arrivals have been granted Protection visas. Some, but not all, of this cohort may have had associations with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Protection visas would only have been approved where security and character requirements have been met.