

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0057) PROGRAMME – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Rhiannon (L&CA 116) asked:

Senator RHIANNON: Is the department aware of any asylum seekers who have returned to Australia from Sri Lanka after being removed as a consequence of the enhanced screening process? Mr Bowles: Sorry, can you repeat that—'if they have returned to Australia after being removed'? Senator RHIANNON: 'Who have returned to Australia from Sri Lanka after being removed as a consequence of the enhanced screening process'. So they have come— Mr Bowles: And been taken home and then come back again? My recollection is: there is a small number. I will take it on notice, though, to give you an accurate figure.

Answer:

The department is aware of 10 Sri Lankan Illegal Maritime Arrivals who were screened out and removed under enhanced screening arrangements, who subsequently returned to Australia.