

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013**

**IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

**(SE13/0399) PROGRAMME – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Minister Morrison has said that 800 Afghan interpreters who have worked alongside the Australian Defence Force (and their families) will be provided refuge. Are these 800 already being processed or do they have to apply themselves? Under what category of visa will they be processed? How many have started being processed/applied so far?

*Answer:*

After they have been certified by their Australian Government employer, eligible Afghan Locally Engaged Employees (LEE) can lodge an application for a visa under the Afghan LEE visa programme and their applications will be processed as a Refugee and Humanitarian (Class XB) visa. Applicants will be granted a subclass 201 In-country Special Humanitarian visa.

To protect the security of our personnel in Afghanistan, the Department does not release details of the number of applications lodged or visas granted under the Afghan LEE visa programme. To do so has the potential to reveal the size and character of the LEE workforce in Afghanistan and therefore provide a level of information to those who would seek to harm the LEE.