

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE SENATE HEARING: 22 March 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

Question 1 - page 22 of Hansard

Senator Cash asked:

How many asylum seekers have initially been released into community detention after the quick security assessment but later brought back into formal detention after the discovery of further information about their identity while ASIO is doing its security assessment? It would be appreciated if you could, and if you could also take on notice, on the technicality, the discovery of further information but not necessarily the adverse security assessment.

Answer:

Two adults, together with their dependents, who had been placed in community detention after the quick security assessment, have been brought back into held detention, following further advice from ASIO.

Questions about whether this further advice related to discovery of further information about the persons' identities should be referred to ASIO.

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Question 2 - page 24 of Hansard

Senator Cash asked:

How many times did IMAs with qualified security assessments go on to receive permanent visas?

Answer:

22 Irregular Maritime Arrivals with qualified security assessments have gone on to receive Protection visas.

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Question 3 – page 27 of Hansard

Senator Cash asked:

Of the cases involving the revoking of community detention or bridging visas for IMAs with negative security assessments, were those individuals withdrawn from the community immediately? And, if not, over what timeframe? That might be a question for Dr Southern.

Answer:

For cases involving community detention, clients are withdrawn immediately from the community.

In relation to bridging visas, they are taken back into detention as soon as visa cancellation and re-detention can be arranged. For the one case to date the department became aware of the adverse security assessment on 19 July 2012 and cancellation and re-detention occurred on 24 July 2012.

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Question 4 – page 27 of Hansard

Senator CASH asked

What period of time elapsed between ASIO's decision to grant an adverse assessment and the minister's decision to revoke a bridging visa or revoke a community placement?

Answer:

Please refer to the answer provided in Question 3.

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Dot point 1 (additional questions)

Senator Cash asked:

How many people currently in formal detention are awaiting a security assessment from ASIO?

Answer:

The information sought is not readily available in consolidated form. It would be a major task to collect and assemble it from official records, and would be an unreasonable diversion of resources, particularly within the timeframes required for response.

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Dot point 2 (additional questions)

Senator Cash asked:

How many people currently in formal detention have received an adverse security assessment?

Answer:

As at 31 December 2012, a total of 56 clients with adverse security assessment are in held detention, comprising 51 Irregular Maritime Arrival clients, four clients from the Oceanic Viking caseload, and one non-IMA client.

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Dot point 3 (additional questions)

Senator Cash asked:

How many people currently in community detention are awaiting a security assessment from ASIO?

Answer:

As at 15 March 2013, there were 85 clients in community detention awaiting the outcome of security assessments from ASIO.

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Dot point 4 (additional questions)

Senator Cash asked:

At what stage in the processing timeline for asylum seekers is ASIO called upon to undertake a full security assessment?

Answer:

Referral for a full security assessment occurs once asylum seekers have been assessed, by the Department or the Refugee Review Tribunal, as being owed Australia's protection obligations.

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Dot point 5 (additional question)

Senator Cash asked:

What is the Department's understanding of the assessment that is undertaken when people are released into the community?

Answer:

Questions relating to security assessments should be referred to ASIO.