

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE15/169) - BVE - Programme 2.1 Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance
(Administered)**

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA) written:

How many people, who are considered to be part of the legacy case load, have been granted work rights?

Does the Department have figures available on the number of asylum seekers granted work rights who are currently employed?

Has the Minister delegated his responsibilities to sign off on work rights to another official? If so, who is now exercising these responsibilities?

Answer:

As at 23 February 2015, there were 26,452 illegal maritime arrivals (IMAs) who had been released on a Bridging E visa (BVE) living in the community. Of these, 9,366 were granted a BVE without restrictions on employment (so called 'work rights').

The department does not maintain figures on the employment status of IMA BVE holders.

A grant of a BVE to an IMA relies on the Minister's non-delegable, non-compellable powers in the *Migration Act 1958*. As such, the Minister's personal intervention is required for every BVE grant to an IMA.