

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 08 February 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE16/194) - Numbers in Nauru - Programme 1.5: IMA Offshore Management

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

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes, thank you. There were 840 people found to be refugees—they are people who have been assessed—and Ms Briscoe has told us 357 transferees. What happened to the commitment to have everybody processed within the end of that particular week in October? Why have we still got 357 people who have not had their claims finalised?

Mr Pezzullo: That is principally a matter that would need to be answered by the authorities within the government of Nauru. They conduct the assessment and we provide support to them, as was painstakingly laid out before the court in the High Court case, so we do have officers who assist. I would not want to speak for the government of Nauru, nor do I care to speculate.

Perhaps there is a capacity issue. They made a judgement about the throughput of processing, and it is a remarkable achievement, albeit from a rapid start with the resumption of regional processing. You could argue that they have done extraordinarily well to, out of 1,200 persons—and I am just using round numbers here—have 840 assessed as refugees.

I do recall, at least towards the back of my mind, that there was a commitment that some of their officials might have given that they would in good faith and with best endeavours try to get everyone through the system. You are right, I think, they did say by the end of a particular week—I am not disputing that, of course—but if the government of Nauru wishes to provide any further information to this Senate through engagement with us, then we will take that on notice. Off the top of my head I do not have an answer, and nor would I care to speculate.

Answer:

The refugee status determination process in Nauru is managed and administered by the Government of Nauru under its domestic law. Policy regarding its administration is a matter for the Government of Nauru.