

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2017

Attorney General's Department

Program: Australian Security Intelligence Organisation

Question No. AE17-078

Senator Pratt asked the following questions on 28 February 2017:

- 1) How many people are currently being held in immigration detention as a consequence of adverse security assessments by ASIO?
- 2) What is the average time, or an indicative time, of the duration that those individuals have now been held?
- 3) Are you satisfied with the independent review process for those subject to ASAs, currently being overseen by Mr Robert Cornall AO?
- 4) How many individuals seeking asylum in Australia have been issued with adverse security assessments in the last 4 years?
- 5) Can you tell us anything about those individuals in terms of their backgrounds or countries from which they have come?

The responses to the honourable Senator's questions are as follows:

- 1) How many people are currently being held in immigration detention as a consequence of adverse security assessments by ASIO?

As at 30 April 2017, there were 8 people in detention with an adverse security assessment.

- 2) What is the average time, or an indicative time, of the duration that those individuals have now been held?

ASIO's adverse visa security assessments recommend Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) does not issue a visa. ASIO does not provide a recommendation on the detention or otherwise of the subject. Such matters are determined by DIBP.

- 3) Are you satisfied with the independent review process for those subject to ASAs, currently being overseen by Mr Robert Cornall AO?

ASIO supports the work of the Independent Reviewer, Mr Robert Cornall AO. The Independent Reviewer performs an important review process that forms part of the suite of accountability and oversight mechanisms.

- 4) How many individuals seeking asylum in Australia have been issued with adverse security assessments in the last 4 years?

For reasons of security, ASIO does not provide statistics in relation to the number of adverse security assessments furnished to the Department of Immigration recommending the Minister for Immigration refuse or cancel a visa.

5) Can you tell us anything about those individuals in terms of their backgrounds or countries from which they have come?

For reasons of security, ASIO will not provide further information about these cases. Any queries relating to asylum claims are a matter for DIBP.