

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(SE14/404) PROGRAMME – 2.1: and 2.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Senator Cash also said 500 of the 11,000 allocation was to go to Syrian refugees, has this occurred?

If not, why?

If so, please update the Committee on the process.

Are there any plans to change the number of visas (e.g. less, more) in the next financial year or other period?

Is this in addition to the Government's announcement they will take 4000 Iraqi and Syrian refugees?

How many of the 4000 places for Iraqi and Syrian refugees have been granted?

*Answer:*

In October 2013, the government made an initial public commitment to resettle a minimum of 500 Syrians under the offshore Humanitarian Programme. In light of the worsening humanitarian situation in Syria, the government increased the commitment in 2013-14 to a minimum of 1 000 places. 1 007 visas were granted to Syrians in the 2013-14 Humanitarian Programme.

In 2014-15, the government has committed to providing a minimum of 4 400 places in the offshore Humanitarian Programme for Syrians (2 200 places) and Iraqis (2 200 places) fleeing violence in these countries.

In addition to the commitment to resettle at least 2 200 Syrians in 2014-15, the Government has also committed to resettle at least 4 500 Syrians in total over the next three years.

The department expects to fully deliver the commitment to resettle 2 200 Syrians and 2 200 Iraqis in 2014-15. As of 27 November 2014, 911 visas have been granted to Syrians, and 695 visas have been granted to Iraqis.