

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/408) PROGRAMME – 2.1: and 2.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Is there a limit to the amount of places offered to LEE interpreters in Australia's humanitarian program?

If so, what is that limit?

Is this number included in the current 13,750 humanitarian resettlement places?

If not, do LEE interpreter applications take precedence over other resettlement applications?

Answer:

Up to 800 visa places have been allocated for Afghan Locally Engaged Employee (LEE) and their families over 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Visa grants to Afghan LEE are counted within the 13 750 places allocated to the Humanitarian Programme.

Afghan LEE visa applications are afforded the highest processing priority but are subject to the same visa processes as other Refugee and Humanitarian visa applicants, including being assessed against health, character and national security requirements.