

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 12 February 2007

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(62) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Payne (L&CA 53) asked:

In relation to the Lao-Hmong refugees on the Thai border, advise the Committee of the progress in that matter.

Answer:

The Australian Embassy in Bangkok are currently processing Lao Hmong identified by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as refugees.

As at 27 February 2007, the post had granted 68 refugee visas. On current planning the first arrivals are expected to occur in late March/early April 2007.

The refugees will be resettled in various States/Territories across Australia. The first group are expected to be resettled in Queensland.