

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(117) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Humphries asked:

1. How many Afghanis has Australia issued visas from overseas posts in the past year?
2. Which posts?
3. Does Australia still accept and process applications for the refugee and humanitarian program out of Pakistan?

Answer:

1. Australia granted offshore humanitarian visas to 847 Afghans in the 2008–09 program year.
2. The following table shows offshore humanitarian visa grants to Afghans by post, for the last program year, 2008–09.

Post	Visa grants: 2008–09 program year
Amman	21
Berlin	6
Dubai	296
Islamabad	209
Jakarta	7
New Delhi	18
Tehran	290
Total	847

3. Australia continues to resettle Afghans living in Pakistan under the Humanitarian Program. Processing responsibility for this caseload was transferred from Islamabad to Dubai in October 2008.