

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(29) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Hanson-Young (L&C 73) asked:

How many people, who are currently held on Christmas Island, have already been found to be refugees by UNHCR?

*Answer:*

During the entry interview which is conducted shortly after an irregular maritime arrival on Christmas Island, people are asked to provide details of contact with UNHCR in any countries of residence or transit. They are also requested to sign a form giving their permission for DIAC to provide their details to UNHCR to enable checks of whether they have been found to be refugees or have had any other contact with UNHCR. Where a person has previously been found to be a refugee by UNHCR, this is taken into account in the Refugee Status Assessment (RSA) process. However, DIAC does not collect or aggregate statistics on the number of people on Christmas Island who have already been found to be refugees by UNHCR.