

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(153) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution**

Senator Cash asked:

- (1) How many of those who have been refused refugee status, either on primary decision or appeal have voluntarily left Australia in 2009-10 and in 2010-11 so far?
- (2) How many have been removed?
- (3) How many are awaiting removal?
- (4) On average how long have those awaiting removal been held in detention following their negative decision?

*Answer:*

(1) Persons who arrive lawfully and who remain lawfully in Australia may make their own arrangements for voluntary departure at any time without involving the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. No action is required by the Department if a client makes their own voluntary departure arrangements and the Department does not keep statistics on those cases.

For the above reason the total number of persons who were refused refugee status, either on primary decision or appeal, and who voluntarily left Australia in any given financial year is not readily available.

However, the Department does offer an assisted voluntary return service to eligible non-citizens wishing to depart Australia who are unable to do so without some support. The Department has partnered with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to offer assisted voluntary returns.

(2) In 2009 – 2010, 76 Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMA) clients who had been refused refugee status, either on primary decision or appeal were voluntarily removed from Australia.

In 2010 – 2011 (as at 28 February 2011), seven IMA clients who had been refused refugee status either on primary decision or appeal were voluntarily removed from Australia.

(3) As at 18 March 2011, the Department was planning removal for fourteen IMAs who had requested removal from Australia.

(4) As at 28 February 2011, the average number of days an IMA client in detention on that date had spent in detention after receiving a negative review determination and not seeking judicial review of that outcome was 7 days.