

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

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

Senator Cash asked:

How many failed asylum seekers who have arrived documented at Australian air and sea ports have been returned to their country of origin? Which countries were they returned to and at what cost? Please provide for the periods 2008-09 and 2009-2010?

*Answer:*

The number of people who left Australia (subject to a compliance related departure) who had previously arrived in Australia lawfully and been found not to be owed protection by Australia was:

- 855 in 2008-09
- 999 in 2009-10

This includes people removed from immigration detention or who departed Australia from the community while holding a Bridging E visa. It does not include people who remained lawful while pursuing their claims for protection and departed Australia without any compliance action being taken by the Department.

In 2008-09, people subject to a compliance related departure who had previously arrived lawfully and been found not to be owed protection were nationals of 66 different countries. Those countries with more than 20 nationals were the Peoples Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, South Korea, Philippines, Vietnam, Lebanon and Fiji.

In 2009-10, people subject to a compliance related departure who had previously arrived lawfully and been found not to be owed protection were nationals of 70 different countries. Those countries that had more than 20 nationals were the Peoples Republic of China, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, South Korea, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Fiji, Lebanon and Pakistan.

#### Cost of compliance related departures:

The individual cost of a removal can vary widely depending on factors such as the destination and commercial airfare costs, whether security or other escorts are required (including their airfares, accommodation and allowances) and the types of immediate post-return assistance that may be appropriate.

During 2009-10 the average cost for removing a person who originally arrived documented at an Australian port was around \$4000. This figure does not include location, detention, case management or review costs.