

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(160) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash asked:

How many failed asylum seekers waiting to be removed are unable to be removed because of issues concerning their citizenship?

Answer:

Agreement from other countries to accept the entry of a person being removed from Australia usually depends upon that other country being satisfied as to the identity and nationality of that person. In some instances, unsuccessful IMA asylum seekers are unwilling to cooperate with Department efforts to obtain travel and identity documents. This can potentially lead to protracted timeframes for removal in some cases.

As at 28 February 2011, there were no failed IMA asylum seekers for whom the Department had reached the conclusion that it was unable to remove because of issues concerning their citizenship. This information is not readily available for the non-IMA caseload.