

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(29) Program : Internal Product

Senator Cash asked:

From August 2008, what has been the highest number of departmental staff engaged in performing refugee status determinations? When was that? Has that number been reduced? Why?

Answer:

Since August 2008 the highest number of departmental staff engaged in performing refugee status determinations (now known as protection obligation determinations), was 175, on 11 February 2011.

The Refugee Status Assessment/ Protection Obligation Determinations (POD) workforce planning strategy was to scale-up the number of POD case officers by more than needed in order to process the pipeline of clients who had arrived during the 2009-10 program year. Now that the majority of clients have received an initial assessment, the POD workforce is incrementally reducing the number of case officers to process the current set of clients who have yet to receive a POD assessment.