

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

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

Senator Cash (L&CA 50) asked:

Has the UNHCR referred any appropriate cases of Afghan refugees abroad for consideration under Australia's refugee settlement program? Can you tell me how many in the last five years?

*Answer:*

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) works closely with the Australian Government in resettling refugees. Once a refugee has been referred to Australia by UNHCR for resettlement, that person makes an application for an Australian visa and is assessed against the relevant criteria.

The table below shows the number of Afghan refugees granted Refugee category visas<sup>1</sup> under Australia's Humanitarian Program since 2006–07.

<b>Program year</b>	<b>No of Afghans granted Refugee category visas<sup>1</sup></b>
2010–11 (to 28 February 2011)	273
2009–10	184
2008–09	303
2007–08	389 <sup>2</sup>
2006–07	346 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Refugee category visas include:

- Subclass 200 – Refugee
- Subclass 201 – In-Country Special Humanitarian
- Subclass 203 – Emergency Rescue
- Subclass 204 – Woman at Risk
- Subclass 451 – Secondary Movement Relocation (Temporary)

<sup>2</sup>Includes one person granted a subclass 451 visa in each of the 2006–07 and 2007–08 Program years. The subclass 451 provisions were repealed in August 2007.