

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0421) Program 4.3: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash asked:

How many failed asylum seekers does the Department estimate will still be in Australia awaiting resolution of their status in 2011-12? 2012-13? 2013-14? 2014-15? At what annual cost? How will this impact upon the settlement of genuine refugees coming through the orderly programme?

Answer:

The Department does not make estimates of the numbers of failed asylum seekers in Australia in the Forward Estimates as their numbers at any point in time are partially dependent on the number of applications and the individual circumstances of any claims. It would also be dependent on those who have failed to engage Australia's protection obligations who leave the country either voluntarily or involuntarily.

The number of failed asylum seekers at any one time has no impact on those people being settled in Australia under the Humanitarian Program.