

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0481) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash asked:

Could I also get a breakdown over, say, the last five years of the number of people who have come to Australia under the offshore processing program and who are Christians from these (Middle East) countries?

Answer:

During the last five financial years, 2006–07 to 2010–11, 5757 visas have been granted under the offshore component of Australia's Humanitarian Program to persons who self identified as Christian¹, and who were born in countries in the Middle East².

Below is a breakdown by year of visas granted to Christians born in the Middle East².

Religious Grouping	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	Total
Christian ¹	801	1211	1625	978	1142	5757

¹ The following self identified religions are grouped as '**Christian**': Armenian Apostolic Church, Assyrian Church of the East, Born again Christian, Catholic, Chaldean Catholic, Christian, Coptic Orthodox Church, Jehovah's Witnesses, Molokan, Orthodox, Other Christian and Syrian (Jacobite) Church.

² Countries of birth which are included as the 'Middle East' are Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.