

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0501) Program 2.1: Refugee, Humanitarian and International Policy

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

How many boat arrivals say they are going to apply for protection who have family already in Australia?

Answer:

The Department does not routinely collect this information in aggregate form. Analysing the actual or potential family links between irregular maritime arrivals and other people living in Australia would require the close interrogation of thousands of individual records. In some cases, this would require the completion of an interview with individual clients to ascertain this information, as family links are not always declared during the status resolution process.