

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0265) PROGRAM – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

How many Coptic Christians were provided with visas, and by what type, out of Egypt in 2011-12 and 2012-13 to date? How many Christians from the Middle East have been granted a humanitarian or refugee visa in 2011-12 and 2012-13 to date? Where were they from? How many have been granted visas out of Syria and Jordan? What about Iraq? What are the planned numbers in 2012-13?

Answer:

The following tables provide data on the number and type of visas granted to Coptic Christians. They also provide data on the number of Christians from the Middle East that have been granted a refugee or humanitarian visa in 2011-12 and 2012-13 to 28 February 2013.

Table 1: The number of visas granted to Egyptian-born Coptic Christians in 2011-12 and 2012-13 to 28 February 2013

Visa subclass	2011-2012	2012-2013
Subclass 200		2
Subclass 201	32	47

Table 2: The number of Christians from the Middle East, and their location, who have been granted a refugee or humanitarian visa in 2011-12 and 2012-13 to 28 February 2013

Location of Middle East Christians	2011-2012	2012-2013
Egypt	141	83
Iraq	4	
Jordan	87	36
Lebanon	159	204
Sudan	138	43
Syria	398	514
Tunisia	19	
Turkey	210	352
Pakistan	4	19
Total	1160	1251

Notes for Tables 1 and 2:

Data for 2012-13 program year was extracted from departmental systems on 03 March 2013.

Data for 2011-12 program year was extracted from departmental systems on 06 July 2012.

Religion is as self-identified by the client.

There are no allocations for religious groups under Australia's Humanitarian Program. Refugee priorities are decided following a comprehensive consultation process, including taking into consideration advice from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on global resettlement need and priorities.

Offshore Special Humanitarian Program applications require a formal proposal, usually by an Australian citizen or permanent resident, and are generated primarily by family in Australia.