

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(155) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay**

Senator Nettle asked:

1. What assessment has the department conducted into West Papuan refugees living in PNG?
2. How many West Papuans are estimated to be in PNG?
3. Which camps and how many departmental officers have visited the camps?
4. What information does DIMA have about conditions for West Papuan refugees living in PNG?
5. Does DIMA consider that PNG offers adequate protection for West Papuan refugees?
6. Is DIMA aware of reports of Indonesian military forces crossing the border into PNG?
7. Is DIMA aware of incidents where Indonesian authorities have paid PNG residents to provide intelligence on West Papuan refugees living in PNG?
8. Do you have an estimate on how many West Papuan asylum seekers may flee West Papua over the next year? How many of these are expected to try and come to Australia?
9. Does DIMA receive any intelligence on the situation in West Papua regarding possible asylum seekers? Does DIMA receive information from Indonesian authorities?

*Answer:*

1. DIMA has not conducted an assessment of Indonesian people from the province of Papua living in Papua New Guinea (PNG).
2. The latest UNHCR figures available to DIMA indicate that in 2005 they were monitoring a population of over 8,000 people in Papua New Guinea.
3. DIMA officers do not visit asylum seeker camps in PNG in the course of their normal duties.
4. DIMA does not monitor the conditions of people from the Indonesian province of Papua living in PNG.
5. In a press statement issued in October 2005, the UNHCR stated that the PNG government was clearly showing its commitment to comply with its international obligations.
6. DIMA is aware of this media reporting.
7. DIMA has not had such matters referred to it and, in any event, would be unable to comment.
8. DIMA does not have an estimate of the possible movement by Indonesian citizens to PNG.

9. DIMA receives information on a range of asylum seeker issues in Indonesia. DIMA does not receive any information about people in the Indonesian province of Papua from Indonesian authorities.