

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 28 MAY 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(44) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Barnett (L&CA 103-104) asked:

Can you give us a breakdown of where migrants from the Middle East come from? I am looking specifically at Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Iran. Maybe for the nine months would be fine, but I would like the latest figures and the breakdown for the top five and then other countries.

Answer:

Persons born in Iraqi and Afghanistan were the two largest Middle Eastern and South West Asian nationalities granted offshore Refugee and Humanitarian visas over the period 01 July 2007 to 31 May 2008. Afghans and Iraqis represented over 90 percent of all grants to persons from the Middle East and South West Asia during this period. The balance of grants over this period were made primarily to Iranians by birth, who represented 8 percent of the Middle East and South West Asia total.

Over the period 01 July 2007 to 31 May 2008, the Department granted 2302 offshore Refugee and Humanitarian visas to Iraqis by birth. This number includes 282 In-country Special Humanitarian visas granted to Iraqis by birth under Australia's commitment to resettle Locally Engaged Employees employed by the Australian Defence Force in Iraq. The Department's Iraqi caseload is primarily located in Syria and Jordan and processed through the Australian mission in Amman.

Over the period 01 July 2007 to 31 May 2008, the Department granted 1006 offshore Refugee and Humanitarian visas to Afghans by birth. The Department's Afghan caseload is primarily located in Pakistan and Iran and processed through Australia's missions in Islamabad and Tehran.