

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 28 MAY 2009**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(40) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Fierravanti-Wells (L&CA 53) asked:

In relation to the protection visa processing of the unauthorised boat arrivals, since August 2008, what has been the result with them? How long did the process take? And where are they?

Perhaps you might do a table which includes how many are appealing their primary decision and at what point the appeals process is.

(SIEV 36 to be included in this response. See page 60 of the transcript)

*Answer:*

As at 16 June 2009:

- Since 1 August 2008, there have been:
  - 163 visa grants;
  - 14 refusals.
- The average processing time from lodgement of claims to RSA decision notification is approximately 78 days.
- There are 14 people in the review process:
  - 10 are awaiting decisions by the Refugee Review Tribunal;
  - 4 are awaiting decisions from the independent merits reviewer.