

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27 MAY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(101) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Barnett (L&C 72 & 73) asked:

(1) Is the department aware whether the UK, the US, Canada, New Zealand or other resettlement countries have visaed Sri Lankans and Afghans in the last two financial years [as refugees]?

(2) Have those countries refused to process onshore asylum claims [from Sri Lankans and Afghans]?

Answer:

(1) The Department is aware that during the last two financial years countries including the UK, US, Canada, New Zealand and other resettlement countries have recognised some asylum seekers from Sri Lanka and Afghanistan as refugees.

(2) The Government was aware of information that a number of other countries had considered or implemented similar measures. However, it is not always the practice of those countries to make those decisions public.