

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 26 MAY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(44) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Parry (L&C 76-77) asked:

- (1) How many irregular maritime arrivals (IMAs) sought refugee status in Australia?
- (2) How many IMAs lodged protection visa applications?
- (3) How many visas were granted in the first instance by the department in each category (onshore protection visa applications, unauthorised air arrivals and IMAs)?
- (4) How many were refused and how many subsequently appealed in both 2008-09 and the year to date?

Answer:

- (1) 2008 – 124
2009 – 2330
2010 (to 11 June 2010) – 2756
- (2) 2008 – 0
2009 – 1130
2010 (to 11 June 2010) - 1174
- (3) According to DIAC systems data as revised at 11 June 2010:
 - in 2009, there were 2924 Protection visas granted at the primary stage, of which 1120 were granted to IMAs.
 - in 2010, there were 1845 Protection visas granted at the primary stage, of which 1171 were granted to IMAs.
- (4) No Refugee Status Assessments (RSA) were finalised in 2008. The first RSA outcomes were handed down to IMAs in January 2009.
In 2009, 103 IMAs were refused at the primary RSA stage. Of these, 90 requested independent merits review.
In 2010 (to 11 June 2010), 548 IMAs were refused at the primary RSA stage. Of these, 368 (as at 11 June 2010) had sought independent merits review.
According to DIAC systems data as revised at 11 June 2010:

In 2009, there were 2833 Protection visa applications refused at the primary stage, of which 10 were applications by IMAs. Of these, 2707 (including 10 IMAs) sought review by the Refugee Review Tribunal.

In 2010 to 11 June, there were 1417 Protection visa applications refused at the primary stage of which none were applications by IMAs. Of these, 1314 sought review by the Refugee Review Tribunal.