

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27 MAY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(89) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Humphries (L&C 59-60) asked:

There was a report about the transfer of 34 detainees from Christmas Island to Villawood on 5 April, that you described Minister, as being on a negative pathway. So they had been refused refugee status and they were, as you put it, in the process of being sent home or sent away. What has happened to those 34 people? Have they now left the country? Provide more precision than a number.

Answer:

Of the 34 detainees who were transferred from Christmas Island to Villawood on 5 April 2010 (as at 11 June 2010):

- 26 are undergoing Independent Merits Review;
- 4 were affirmed as not being refugees by Independent Merits Review and are awaiting removal;
- 3 have been found to be refugees following Independent Merits Review but are undergoing health, character and security checking prior to referral to the Minister under section 46A of the Migration Act for consideration of whether to allow these people to lodge a valid application for a Protection visa;
- 1 did not seek review, but has been issued with a Criminal Justice Stay certificate and is the subject of people smuggling charges.