

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0166) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (L&CA 96) asked:

To date how many appropriate cases of Afghan refugees abroad has the UNHCR referred for consideration under Australia's refugee resettlement program?

Answer:

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) works closely with the Australian Government in resettling refugees. Once a refugee has been referred to Australia by UNHCR for resettlement, that person makes an application for an Australian visa and is assessed against the relevant criteria.

The table below shows the number of Afghan refugees granted Refugee category visas¹ under Australia's Humanitarian Program since 2006–07. The majority of these people were referred by UNHCR, however, these figures also include a small number of self-referred refugees.

A further 3648 persons born in Afghanistan were granted subclass 202 (Global Special Humanitarian) visas between 2006–07 and 2010–11.

Program year	No of Afghans ¹ granted Refugee category visas ²
2010–11	423
2009–10	184
2008–09	303
2007–08	389 ³
2006–07	346 ³

¹ The country of birth of primary visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants. For example, where the primary visa applicant was born in Afghanistan but has two children (secondary applicants) born in Pakistan, the country of birth for the secondary visa applicants will be counted as Afghanistan.

² Refugee category visas include:

- Subclass 200 – Refugee
- Subclass 201 – In-Country Special Humanitarian
- Subclass 203 – Emergency Rescue
- Subclass 204 – Woman at Risk
- Subclass 451 – Secondary Movement Relocation (Temporary)

³ Includes one person granted a subclass 451 visa in each of the 2006–07 and 2007–08 Program years. The subclass 451 provisions were repealed in August 2007.