

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0286) Program 3.1: Border Management

Senator Cash asked:

How many of those who have been refused refugee status, either on primary decision or appeal have voluntarily left Australia in 2009/10 and in 2010/11 so far?

Answer:

Persons who arrive lawfully and who remain lawfully in Australia may make their own arrangements for voluntary departure at any time without involving the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. No action is required by the Department if a client makes their own voluntary departure arrangements and the Department does not keep statistics on those cases.

For the above reason the total number of persons who were refused refugee status, either on primary decision or appeal, and who voluntarily left Australia in any given financial year is not readily available.

However, the Department does offer an assisted voluntary return service to eligible non-citizens wishing to depart Australia who are unable to do so without some support. The Department has partnered with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to offer assisted voluntary returns from the community.

In 2009-2010, 63 Irregular Maritime Arrival (IMA) clients who had been refused refugee status, either on primary decision or review, were voluntarily removed.

In 2010-2011 (as at 20 May 2011), 24 IMA clients who had been refused refugee status, either on primary decision or review, were voluntarily removed.