

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(BE11/0308) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution**

Senator Cash asked:

How many failed asylum seekers who have arrived documented at Australian air and sea ports have been returned to their country of origin.

*Answer:*

The number of people who left Australia (subject to a compliance related departure), who had previously arrived in Australia lawfully and been found not to be owed protection by Australia was:

- 863 from 1 July 2010 to 31 March 2011

This includes people removed from immigration detention or who departed Australia from the community while holding a Bridging E visa. It does not include people who remained lawful while pursuing their claims for protection and departed Australia without any compliance action being taken by the Department.

The decision that the person was not owed protection may have also occurred in a previous financial year to that in which the person left Australia.

The Department does not have consolidated data for the final destination countries of removees, and those departing on Bridging E visas. Often a client will be removed or will return to their country of nationality.