

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0599) Program 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash asked:

How many of the asylum seekers transferred from Christmas Island have had health, character and security checks?

Answer:

In the vast majority of cases if a client has completed their health, security and character checks, they are eligible for the grant of a Protection visa. In cases where clients pass these three checks, as well as identity checks, they are released from immigration detention.

There are a small number of clients who have been transferred to appropriate immigration detention facilities on the mainland after having completed the three checks and receiving an adverse security assessment. As at 12 July 2011, a total of nine people have been moved to mainland immigration detention facilities after having completed health, character and security checks and receiving adverse security assessments.

Note that character checks are initiated for clients only after they have been found to be owed protection, therefore the clients who have transferred to mainland immigration detention centres on a negative pathway will not have completed all three checks.