

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0282) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash asked:

New single assessment regime: How many IMAs, if any, have already applied for ministerial intervention? Are only those that arrived after 24 March 2012 able to access ministerial intervention or those who arrived prior to that date? Can you clarify exactly which cohorts will be eligible for access to the RRT and subsequently the courts and ministerial discretion? How many people do you expect that will entail? If each of them utilises every form of review, how long do you think they will remain in Australia? Are these costs reflected in the budget? How much did this cost in 2011-12? How much additional cost has been budgeted for 2012-13?

Answer:

The post-Refugee Review Tribunal intervention power will only routinely be available to IMAs who arrive after 24 March 2012.

Annual and quarterly figures for Protection visa grant and refusal rates for IMAs and non-IMAs are published on the DIAC website at:

www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/asylum/

http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/asylum/_files/asylum-trends-aus-annual-2010-11.pdf

Ministerial intervention statistics are released on a six monthly basis, once data is collected. These statistics are published on the DIAC website at:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/ministerial-intervention/>

The department does not collect specific data relating to number of IMAs applying for Ministerial intervention.

All IMAs, under the Single Process, can access merits review by the RRT, judicial review, or Ministerial intervention. These review stages replace the equivalent review mechanisms that were in place under the Protection Obligation Determination process and, as such, are not additional processes.