

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0044) PROGRAM – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (L&CA 83) asked:

Ms Larkins: First of all, as we mentioned before, the government sets planning levels within that 20,000. For this year those planning levels were set at 12,000 refugees and 500 special humanitarian visas, which is a total offshore of 12,500 and 7,500 onshore.

Senator CASH: How does that compare with last year?

Ms Larkins: I am just getting that data for you.

Mr Bowles: It will be different, because the overall program was 13,750

Senator CASH: Are there any cases from prior to 13 August 2012 that are still waiting for a visa and, if so, how many?

Ms Larkins: Yes. My understanding is that at 3 May we have a total IMA case load of just over 5,000.

Senator CASH: That is all prior to 13 August 2012?

Ms Larkins: That is right.

Senator CASH: Because nothing has been processed, apart from the preliminary assessment. So there are 5,000 currently who have not received a place. You were going to get me the comparative figures for 2011-12. We have established 12,000 refugees, 500 SH visas and 7,000 onshore, which gets us to our 20,000. In relation to last year, 13,750, what is the breakdown?

Mr Bowles: It is 6,000 refugees to start with, I think it was 500 SHP—

Senator CASH: So half the number of refugees, the same number of special humanitarian—

Mr Bowles: I think so. We will get you the exact figures.

Answer:

The following table provides a comparison and breakdown of the visas granted under the Refugee and Humanitarian Program for the 2011-12 program year and the 2012-13 program year to 31 May 2013.

Visa	2011-12	2012-13
Refugee	6004	8572
SHP	714	270
Onshore	7041	7312

Notes:

Data for 2012-13 program year was extracted from departmental systems on 31 May 2013.