

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0411) PROGRAM –

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

How many IMAs had not received a primary RSA decision prior to March 24?
How many IMAs have turned up since March 24? How many primary negative RSA decisions have been handed down for IMAs since March 24?
How many of the cases have resulted in appeals being lodged with the RRT?
Will these appeals be funded by the taxpayer?

Answer:

There were approximately 1,600 clients who had not received a primary Refugee Status Assessment (RSA) decision prior to 24 March 2012.

Annual and quarterly figures for the number of IMA applicants and Protection visa (PV) grant and refusal rates for 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-2011-12.pdf

In the period from 24 March 2012 to 31 May 2013, the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) received 1,571 applications for review from Irregular Maritime Arrivals.

Funding under the Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS) includes review by the RRT where the applicant meets the eligibility criteria.

Application assistance is provided to persons in immigration detention to prepare and lodge applications for a PV or requests for RSA. It also includes application assistance to prepare requests for review by the RRT (in the case of PV applicants) or independent merits review (IMR) (in the case of people in the RSA process) where the primary outcome is negative.