

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0459) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

What is the profile of those who have been returned – how many, for example are Tamils and how many are Sinhalese? If that breakdown is not possible, Tamil and non-Tamil? What part of Sri Lanka did they come from and return to?

Answer:

Between October 2008 and 26 May 2013, 1214 Sri Lankan Illegal Maritime Arrivals were removed both voluntarily and involuntarily. Of these, 460 claimed to be of Tamil ethnicity and 754 claimed to be of Sinhalese ethnicity. In regards to what part of Sri Lanka the returnees were from, the Department does not record this information in a consolidated manner as information is only aggregated by country of origin.