

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(95) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Further to the answer provided by Ms Keski-Nummi regarding the recent case of the 9 or 10 onshore arrivals that were refused asylum and returned to Sri Lanka, please provide further details about these cases, including a copy of the RRT's decision.

Answer:

Privacy laws prevent disclosure of personal information about individual cases. It would therefore not be appropriate to provide or discuss personal information about the Sri Lankans whose asylum claims were refused and who were subsequently returned to Sri Lanka.

In line with normal procedures, each of these individuals' cases were thoroughly examined by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and by the independent Refugee Review Tribunal. All were found not to be owed protection. An assessment of claims against Australia's other international non-refoulement obligations had also been made and it was concluded that Australia's obligations were not engaged.