

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(96) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

How many applications for asylum have been received since the abolition of the 45 day rule?

Answer:

The abolition of the 45 day rule came into effect on 1 July 2009.

During the first quarter of 2009-10, according to systems data extracted on 2 October 2009, there were 686 initial lodgements of applications for a Protection visa, including around 260 lodgements by Irregular Maritime Arrivals (the latter figure is an estimate based on available information). All Irregular Maritime Arrivals are subject to mandatory detention and are unable to work while their protection claims are considered.