

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(175) Internal Product: Refugee, Borders and Onshore Services Division

Senator Cash asked:

Please provide an assessment of the resources required by the department to process the application of an offshore humanitarian applicant compared to those for an Irregular Maritime Arrival (IMA)

Answer:

The processes required for the department to process offshore humanitarian applicants compared to irregular maritime arrivals are significantly different. Each is briefly described below with the applicable minutes allocated through the department's internal funding model.

Offshore special humanitarian program entrants are proposed by eligible onshore residents who lodge an application onshore, which is then assessed and either referred to the relevant offshore post or refused. Referred applicants are interviewed and, if successful, health and security clearances are completed prior to applicants being settled in Australia. The relevant average funded work effort for each stage is listed below:

- assess and refer - 212 minutes per case
- offshore processing including interview - 5020 minutes per case

Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) are entry interviewed on arrival at Christmas Island, allocated an Immigration Advice and Assistance Scheme (IAAAS) provider, asked to lodge a statement of claims, interviewed during a Refugee Status Assessment (RSA) and, if found to be a refugee, asked to lodge an application which is processed before the client is settled. The indicative and estimated funded work effort/costs for each stage are listed below:

- entry interview – 200 minutes per case
- IAAAS provider – 180 minutes per case
- RSA process – 926 minutes' per case (based on the onshore protection equivalent process)