

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(236) Program 3.1: Border Management

Senator Cash asked:

How many asylum seekers given permanent residency in Australia were resident in countries, other than their stated country of origin for a period of time of greater than 3 years, particularly Indonesia, Iran and Pakistan?

Answer:

As part of the entry interview process, conducted shortly after an irregular maritime arrival (IMA) arrives in Australia, the Department collects information about their previous addresses, including whether they have lived for more than one month outside their country of Citizenship.

Based on information obtained from the entry interviews of 5209 IMAs who arrived in the 2009-10 financial year, 47 claimed to have lived for more than three years in a country other than their country of birth.

Of these 47 IMAs, 40 claimed to have lived in Iran and Pakistan for more than three years.

The remaining seven claimed to have lived in Malaysia, Iraq, Qatar and Yemen for more than three years.

None claim to have lived in Indonesia for more than three years.