

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(244) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash asked:

According to an answer given in Senate Estimates in May, the acceptance rate of Afghans by Australian decision makers at the primary stage has fallen from 99% in 2009 to 85% in 2010. What is the acceptance rate after appeal?

Answer:

The recognition rate for Afghan irregular maritime arrivals after review for 2010 (until 30 September) was 96 per cent, noting that some 560 primary refusals in this period were yet to receive a review outcome as at 30 September 2010.

From 1 January to 30 September 2010 there were, in relation to Afghan nationals:

- 1582 primary refugee status assessment outcomes
 - 855 were found to be refugees
 - 727 were refused
- As at 30 September 2010, approximately one quarter (165) of those primary refusals had a merits review outcome:
 - 124 were found to be refugees
 - 41 had their primary refusal assessment affirmed
- Of 1020 final outcomes for Afghan irregular maritime arrivals, 979 Afghans were found to be refugees within the period 1 January to 30 September 2010, counting recognition in both primary (855) and merits review (124) processes.
 - At 30 September 2010, some 560 Afghan primary refusals in that period were yet to finalise merits review.