

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(340) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash asked:

I refer to the Subclass 204 Visa – Women at Risk. Is any consideration given to formally increasing the 10.5% annual target? If not, why not?

Answer:

The Woman at Risk visa (subclass 204) is for female applicants and their dependants who are subject to persecution or are people of concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, are living outside their home country without the protection of a male relative and are in danger of victimisation, harassment or serious abuse because of their gender.

The Australian Government announced in 2009 that it had increased the annual target for Woman at Risk visa grants to 12 per cent of the refugee component in 2009–10.

Australia granted 806 Woman at Risk visas during 2009–10, exceeding the annual target with 13.4 per cent of refugee component visas granted to women at risk and their dependants.

Australia also resettles many other vulnerable women and girls through other subclasses within the Humanitarian Program.