

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(58) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (L&CA 58) asked:

(1) What is the current number of asylum seekers believed to be in Indonesia waiting passage to Australia?

(2) How many people found to be refugees by the UNHCR are currently in Indonesia awaiting resettlement places?

(3) How many asylum seekers are currently held in Indonesian detention facilities?

(4) How much financial assistance has Australia provided Indonesia to build, maintain and operate its detention centres?

Answer:

(1) It is not possible to know the intentions of asylum seekers in Indonesia and whether they intend to seek to travel to Australia.

(2) According to UNHCR Jakarta, as at 30 September 2010 there were 837 mandated refugees in Indonesia awaiting durable solutions which could include: voluntary repatriation; local integration; or resettlement to third countries.

(3) The total number of asylum seekers currently held in Indonesian detention facilities is not known.

(4) Australia does not provide financial assistance to Indonesia to build, maintain and operate its detention centres. However, Australia does provide funding to IOM in certain countries in the region, including Indonesia, to improve the care and management of irregular migrants. This can include activities to address overcrowding and improve conditions in immigration detention facilities across Indonesia.