

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(62) Program 3.1: Border Management

Senator Cash (L&CA 59) asked:

What accounts have been provided by IMAs regarding representations made to them by people smugglers regarding the likelihood of their obtaining permanent residency or citizenship in Australia?

Answer:

The Department does not specifically capture and collate data regarding representations made to irregular maritime arrivals (IMAs) by people smugglers about the prospects of obtaining permanent residence or citizenship in Australia.

However, based on the comments gathered from the entry interviews of 5209 IMAs in the 2009-10 financial year, 85 (or approximately 1.6%) IMAs claimed their people smuggler provided country information about Australia, such as:

- Australia would accept them as refugees;
- the person would be able to live in Australia permanently;
- Australia is a safe and humanitarian country, free of discrimination.

Of those 85 IMAs however, only six specifically claimed their people smuggler told them they would get residency or citizenship in Australia