

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(63) Program 3.1: Border Management

Senator Cash (L&CA 59) asked:

- (1) How long is it currently taking for ASIO to make security assessments of offshore entry persons?
- (2) How many Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMA) in the course of this financial year have had ASIO security checks?
- (3) How many have received negative assessments?
- (4) Are there any cases in which ASIO has changed its assessment in the light of later information or for any other reasons?

Answer:

As these are matters for ASIO, these responses have been drafted in consultation with ASIO.

- (1) During the period 1 July 2010 to 30 November 2010, 746 security assessments in respect of irregular maritime arrivals (IMAs) were finalised by ASIO in an average of 108 days.
- (2) During the period 1 July 2010 to 30 November 2010, DIAC referred 2571 IMA cases to ASIO for security assessment. During the same period, ASIO finalised 746 security assessments. These included some cases that had been referred to ASIO by DIAC prior to 1 July 2010.
- (3) During the period 1 July 2010 to 30 November 2010, six of the 746 assessments finalised were the subject of an adverse security assessment.
- (4) DIAC has not received any advice from ASIO that its security assessment in respect of an IMA has been changed in the light of later information or for any other reasons.