

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0193) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (L&CA 27) asked:

Has the UNHCR referred any appropriate cases of Afghan refugees offshore for consideration under Australia's refugee resettlement program for 2010-2011 and the year to date, and if so: a) how many; b) how many have been granted visas; c) from which posts.

Answer:

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have advised that during the 2010–11 program year, they referred a total of 479 Afghan persons to Australia for consideration under Australia's Humanitarian Program. UNHCR advises that data on referrals for the current (2011–12) program year is not yet available.

The Department does not collect data on referrals and so is unable to identify the number of these referrals which have subsequently led to visa grants.

However, most persons granted refugee visas have been referred to the Department by the UNHCR. Refer to Table 1 below for the number of refugee visa grants by post to people born in Afghanistan.

Table 1: Persons born in Afghanistan¹ granted Refugee category visas², by post of visa grant, in 2010–11 and 2011–12 year to date³

Post of visa grant	Program year of visa grant		Total
	2010–11	2011–12 YTD	
Dubai	89	9	98
Jakarta	190	16	206
Kuala Lumpur	20	18	38
Port Moresby	1	0	1
Tehran	123	15	138
Total	423	58	481

1. The country of birth of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
2. Refugee category visas include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
3. The 2011–12 program year to date is to 30 September 2011. Data for 2010–11 was extracted from departmental systems on 30 June 2011. Data for 2011–12 was extracted from departmental systems on 4 November 2011.