

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(SE11/0194) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Cash (L&CA 27) asked:

Has the UNHCR referred any appropriate cases of Iranians, Sri Lankans and Iraqis 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 1 195 Iraqis, 283 Iranians and 59 Sri Lankans to Australia for consideration under Australia's Humanitarian Program. UNHCR advise 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 persons born in Iraq, Iran and Sri Lanka.

**Table 1: Persons granted a Refugee category visa<sup>1</sup>, by post and selected country of birth<sup>2</sup>, in 2010–11 and 2011–12 year to date<sup>3</sup>**

Post of visa grant	Program year of visa grant		Total
	2010–11	2011–12 YTD	
<i>Iraqis</i>			
Amman	482	152	634
Ankara	313	149	462
Beijing	1	0	1
Beirut	170	17	187
Berlin	14	0	14
Cairo	2	0	2
Dubai	8	3	11
Jakarta	118	4	122
Kuala Lumpur	6	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 114</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>1 439</b>
<i>Iranians</i>			
Ankara	87	43	130
Bangkok	0	2	2
Dubai	3	0	3
Jakarta	39	5	44
Kuala Lumpur	3	0	3
Tehran	9	0	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>191</b>
<i>Sri Lankans</i>			
Belgrade	7	0	7
Colombo	5	0	5
Jakarta	66	0	66
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>78</b>

1. Refugee category visas include subclass 200 (Refugee), 201 (In-Country Special Humanitarian Program), 203 (Emergency Rescue) and 204 (Woman at Risk).
2. The country of birth of principal visa applicants is applied to secondary visa applicants.
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.