QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0195) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash (L&CA 28) asked:

What percentage of those found not to be refugees in the Pacific Solution were returned to their home country?

Answer.

The caseload of people processed at the Offshore Processing Centres on Nauru and Manus totalled 1637.

Of this number, 483 were found not to be refugees and returned voluntarily to their countries of origin. This represents approximately 30 per cent of the total caseload.

In addition, a further 78 people who were found not to be refugees were resettled in Australia or in another country of resettlement.

Therefore, of the 561 people who were found not to be refugees, 86 per cent returned voluntarily to their countries of origin.

None was returned involuntarily to their country of origin.