

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0203) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

Malaysia Solution: How many Afghan refugees, many who have been in protracted exile for 4-5 years were approached for resettlement? If none, why? What was the process and how were decisions made over who would be approached for Australian resettlement?

Answer:

Consistent with longstanding arrangements, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) refers to Australia refugees which UNHCR consider are a priority for consideration for resettlement.

We do not have data for the number of refugees considered by UNHCR for resettlement but from 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011 the Australian High Commission, Kuala Lumpur granted 368 refugee visas, 18 of which were to Afghan refugees.