

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0206) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash asked:

Have any failed asylum seekers taken advantage of the reintegration package? How many? To which countries have they returned? What has been the cost of the reintegration package in the year to date?

Answer:

As at 20 November 2011, 94 irregular maritime arrivals (including a family of 3) have taken up 92 Individual Reintegration Assistance packages prior to returning to their home country. Of these, 56 have returned to Iran, 4 to Afghanistan, 8 to Iraq, 1 to Sri Lanka and 25 to Vietnam.

Up until 20 November 2011, the cost of the reintegration packages for the 2011–12 program year was \$188 795.