

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0212) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash asked:

*How many IMAs in the financial year to date have received negative assessments?
What is the status of these people?*

Answer:

Variance in primary recognition rates reflects the nature of claims put forward by asylum seekers and changes in information on country conditions over time.

The number of primary assessments where the client was found not to be a refugee for Australia's IMA caseload in the period 1 July to 30 September 2011, including both Refugee Status Assessment and Protection Obligations Evaluation decisions where applicable, is 357 clients.

Review of primary refusal decisions

The Independent Merits Review/Independent Protection Assessment is an assessment, conducted by an independent reviewer, as to whether someone is owed protection under the refugee convention.

The 357 clients that were found not to be a refugee at primary assessment were referred for an Independent Merits Review/Independent Protection Assessment.

Status of this client cohort

Of the clients that received a negative primary assessment between 1 July and 30 September 2011:

- 356 are awaiting a review decision;
- Nil have been affirmed at review;
- Nil have been overturned at review; and
- After referral to IPA one client was removed after he requested to be returned to his country of origin.