

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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

**IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

**(SE11/0213) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance**

Senator Cash asked:

How many primary RSA decisions were made within the Government's stated target of 90 days in the period to date?

*Answer:*

There are no statutory requirements to process asylum claims for Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMAs) within a prescribed timeframe. A 90 day timeframe for assessment of onshore protection claims has been adopted as a standard operating guide for the Refugee Status Assessment (RSA)/Protection Obligation Evaluation (POE) process.

Data shows that the total number of primary RSA/POE decisions made from 1 July 2011 to 30 September 2011 was 834. Of these, 473 primary RSA/POE decisions were made within 90 days.