

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 17 OCTOBER 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE11/0220) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

How many asylum seekers have arrived directly by plane in the past six months? Were any of these from Syria? Have any people from Syria arrived by plane and flown back home or to a third country?

Answer:

Annual and quarterly figures for Protection visa applications by air arrivals are published on the DIAC website at:

www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/asylum/

www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/asylum/files/asylum-trends-aus-annual-2010-11.pdf

Updates will be released at the end of each quarter once data is collated.

With respect to citizens of Syria, which is not one of the top 20 citizenships included in the quarterly publication, there were 39 Protection visa applications by air arrivals during the six month period from April to September 2011.

Information on asylum seekers from Syria returning to their home or a third country is not available.