

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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

**IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

**(SE11/0249) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution**

Senator Cash (L&CA 30-31) asked:

Has the Department ever been able to remove failed asylum seekers to Iran? If yes, how many, under what circumstances and when did that occur?

*Answer:*

As at 30 September 2011, since October 2008, 35 Iranian Irregular Maritime Arrival (IMA) clients have been voluntarily removed from Australia having been refused refugee status.

During the same period, the department has facilitated the involuntary removal of one failed asylum seeker to Iran who arrived as an Irregular Air Arrival (IAA) and held a valid Iranian passport.