

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0190) PROGRAM – Internal Product

Senator Hanson-Young (written) asked:

Internal audit of IMR findings: What did the PRE assessment consist of? What was the percentage of positive assessment outcomes from the PRE process?

Answer:

The Pre-Review Examination (PRE) was developed as a quality assurance tool to check the currency of negative primary refugee assessments of irregular maritime arrivals (IMAs) who are awaiting an independent merits review.

The departmental officer undertaking the PRE had regard to all available material on the client's file, including the entry interview, the primary decision record, case notes, interview records and any new material submitted by the client and their migration agent. The officer also referred to up to date country information. The client was not interviewed as part of PRE.

If the client was found to be a refugee following the checking of their case, they underwent relevant immigration checks (including security checks) and visa processing.

Where there was no change to the client's status, the case proceeded to independent merits review. The independent review of their claims was not delayed as a result of the PRE process.

The last cases allocated for PRE occurred on 16 December 2011. As at 27 January 2012 (the final report conducted), in 31 per cent of PRE cases the client was found to be a refugee.