

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0056) PROGRAMME – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Singh (L&CA 114) asked:

Senator SINGH: This obviously then means that there is a kind of inbuilt delay in the processing of maritime arrivals. In a sense it penalises them over those who arrive by air. You have similar TPV outcomes for both and yet one lot are being—do you see what I am trying to say?

Ms Larkins: Yes, I do, but I think it would be good to take it on notice. I could speculate about what is in the fact sheet and the reasons for the policy, but it would be better for us to take it on notice and come back to you.

Answer:

In line with Direction 57 of 2013 which came into effect on 1 July 2013, issued under section 499 of the *Migration Act 1958* by the former Minister Brendan O'Connor MP, illegal maritime arrivals (IMAs) and unauthorised air arrivals (UAAs) receive a lower processing priority than authorised air arrivals who entered Australia with a valid visa or who were immigration cleared on arrival.

The re-introduced Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs) applied to all IMAs and UAAs. Authorised arrivals were not eligible for a TPV but remained eligible for a permanent Protection visa.

The factsheet referred to is attached to SE13/0396.