



Mr Peter Hallahan

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
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Dear Mr Hallahan,

I refer to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs Inquiry into the *Australian Citizenship Amendment (Citizenship Test Review and Other Measures) Bill 2009*. I also refer to the joint Refugee Advice and Casework Service / Immigration and Rights Centre submission provided to the Committee and to my evidence provided on behalf of RACS at the Committee's hearing held in Melbourne on 27 August 2009.

At the hearing I took a question on notice. The question, posed by Senator Guy Barnett, related to the numbers of persons, which would be affected by the RACS proposal to exempt refugees and humanitarian entrants from the requirement to sit the citizenship test. I now have the figures available, which are provided below.

According to a recent media release from the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, the Honourable Chris Evans, 13, 507 persons were granted visas within the humanitarian stream (including both the onshore and offshore programs) in 2008 / 2009.<sup>1</sup> According to Department of Immigration and Citizenship figures, the total migration program intake in the 2008 / 2009 was 171, 318.<sup>2</sup>

Therefore in the 2008 / 2009 year, refugees and humanitarian entrants represented 7.88 % of the total migration program intake.

<sup>1</sup> Senator Chris Evans, Australia Delivers on Refugee Commitments, Media Release, 2 September 2009; <http://www.minister.immi.gov.au/media/media-releases/2009/ce09079.htm> (Accessed 3 Sept 2009)

<sup>2</sup> DIAC, *Reporting on Migration Program 2008-09*, Canberra, 2009  
<http://www.immi.gov.au/media/statistics/pdf/report-on-migration-program-2008-09.pdf> (Accessed 3 Sept 2009).

Once again, I thank the Committee on behalf of RACS for the opportunity to have been heard in relation to this inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Zoe Anderson  
Solicitor