

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Inquiry into strengthening Australia's Trade and Investment Relations with Africa

13 March 2026

QoN Number: 1

Subject: Visa applications processed outside of Nairobi and Pretoria for last three years

Asked by: Dean Smith

Question:

OK, so just on that last point, I would be interested in knowing how many in the over the last three years, so each calendar year, how many Applications from Africans in Africa were processed outside Nairobi and Pretoria?

Answer:

A breakdown of Visitor visa finalisations by calendar year and processing location for citizens of African countries who declared residence in an African country is available in **Table 1**. These finalisations included Visitor visas in the Business, Tourist and Sponsored Family streams.

Table 1: Visitor visa finalisations by calendar year and processing location for citizens of African countries who declared residence in an African country

Processing Location	2023	2024	2025	2026 to 28 Feb 2026
Nairobi	4,593 (7%)	5,613 (9%)	10,651 (16%)	1,868 (18%)
Pretoria	33,686 (54%)	29,685 (49%)	34,402 (51%)	4,756 (46%)
Outside Nairobi and Pretoria	24,425 (39%)	24,851 (41%)	22,204 (33%)	3,781 (36%)
Total	62,704	60,149	67,257	10,405

Note: African countries for citizenship and residence country include the following: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Dem Republic of, Congo, Republic of, Cote D'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Inquiry into Strengthening Australia's Trade and Investment Relations with Africa

13 March 2026

QoN Number: 2

Subject: African-related events on the International Events Coordination Network

Asked by: Dean Smith

Question:

So just over the last three years you could just identify for us which African events or African-related events have been registered if that's the correct term on the international events coordination network that would be helpful.

Answer:

For the period 2023 -2025, there were 19 African-related events registered with the International Events Coordination Network (IECN). This included conferences, entertainment, cultural and sporting events. It is not a requirement for event organisers to register events with the IECN.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Inquiry into Strengthening Australia's Trade and Investment Relations with Africa

13 March 2026

QoN Number: 4

Subject: Engagement from Australian businesses on trade with the African continent

Asked by: Claire Clutterham

Question:

Claire Clutterham MP: How much engagement do you have from Australian businesses looking to trade with the African continent?

Tharani Vithanage: So, in terms, so we split it in the Australian Border Force between imports and exports. So, from an export perspective, I know my colleagues from Austrade talked to you about the assistance they provide, the Go Global toolkits, all those sorts of activities. From an import perspective, the types of assistance on offer are mechanisms such as our Australian Trusted Trader Scheme. I'm happy to talk to you more about that if that's helpful. We can offer origin advice in terms of people wanting to bring material in. I have to say, though, there hasn't been a high take-up of that kind of advice from us. You could apply for a tariff concession order, get rulings ahead of time, but there hasn't been a high take-up of that, so we'd be keen to work with Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Austrade to see what we can do in terms of improving that level of engagement. Because it seems to me that there's an opportunity there to strengthen those opportunities for everyone to facilitate greater trade.

Claire Clutterham MP: Yeah, and maybe just on notice what your sense is as to why that is sort of so low in terms of levels of engagement would be helpful, just cause I'm conscious of time.

Answer:

Engagement from Australian businesses trading with Africa is currently modest. Africa accounts for around 1% of Australia's total trade, and correspondingly we see low utilisation of ABF trade facilitation mechanisms, such as advance rulings, tariff concession orders and origin advice.

Our assessment is that this reflects a combination of factors, including relatively low trade volumes, limited awareness of Australian customs programs, and the fact that many goods traded with Africa already attract a low or 'Free' rate of customs duty, reducing the incentive to seek advance advice.

From the ABF's perspective, there is scope to improve engagement, and we are keen to work with DFAT and Austrade to better promote available customs mechanisms that can support businesses looking to expand trade with African markets.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Inquiry into Strengthening Australia's Trade and Investment Relations with Africa

13 March 2026

QoN Number: 5

Subject: Measurement of facilitated trade - PACER

Asked by: the Hon. Richard Colbeck

Question:

I'll just go back to the PACER Plus. Off the back of what we've developed in the Pacific, is there any demonstration or measured that you could talk to us that shows how that facilitated trade off the back of the development of that agreement from your perspective?

Answer:

Since the PACER Plus free trade agreement entered into force in December 2020, ABF data show steadily increased imports from PACER Plus member countries. ABS data similarly shows that two-way trade volumes, including goods and services, increased over that period. However, we are unable to attribute the increase exclusively to PACER Plus - there are multiple factors that influence trade flows.

PACER Plus' contribution to increased trade could have occurred through two channels:

- (i) trade liberalisation measures such as reduced tariffs and more relaxed rules of origin, and
- (ii) trade and investment related development assistance provided as part of the PACER Plus agreement ('the Development and Economic Cooperation workplan'). The initial focus of the workplan, funded by Australia and New Zealand, was on building the capacity of Pacific island PACER members to engage in regional and international trade. This included investments in digital customs systems and national trade information portals.