

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-99

Subject: Temporary Visa Holders - not in Australia

Asked by: Rachel Siewert

Question:

How many temporary visa holders – including bridging and special category visas – are currently not in Australia?

a. Please break down into visa subclasses.

Answer:

The following table provides the number of temporary visa holders located outside Australia as at 31 May 2020 by visa subclass:

Number of Temporary Visa Holders Outside Australia		
Visa Category	Visa Subclass	As At 31/05/2020
Bridging	020 Bridging B	5,278
Crew and Transit	771 Transit	22,975
	988 Maritime Crew Visa	680,900
Other Temporary	580 Student Guardian	126
	590 Student Guardian	1,048
	602 Medical Treatment	152
	675 Medical Treatment (Short Stay)	<5
	685 Medical Treatment (Long Stay)	12
	773 Border	<5
	950 Criminal Justice Entry	7
	443 Citizens of Former Yugoslavia	<5
Student	500 Student	126,157
	560 Student	228
	570 Independent ELICOS Sector	<5
	571 Schools Sector	169
	572 Vocational Education and Training Sector	43
	573 Higher Education Sector	2,766
	574 Postgraduate Research Sector	1,063
	575 Non-Award Sector	<5

	576 Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector	12
Temporary Protection	784 Domestic Protection (Temporary)	<5
	785 Temporary Protection	45
	790 Safe Haven Enterprise	70
Temporary Resident (Other Employment)	400 Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity)	6,696
	403 Temporary Work (International Relations)	1,690
	405 Investor Retirement	152
	407 Training	683
	408 Temporary Activity	10,255
	410 Retirement	1,774
	418 Educational	8
	419 Visiting Academic	<5
	420 Temporary Work (Entertainment)	<5
	422 Medical Practitioner	<5
	428 Religious Worker	6
	461 New Zealand Citizen Family Relationship (Temporary)	1,559
	476 Skilled - Recognised Graduate	1,693
	485 Temporary Graduate	12,533
	870 Sponsored Parent (Temporary)	390
	995 Diplomatic (Temporary)	594
	442 Occupational Trainee	<5
	415 Foreign Government Agency	<5
Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)	457 Temporary Work (Skilled)	14,523
	482 Temporary Skill Shortage	19,802
Visitor	456 Business (Short Stay)	96
	600 Visitor	2,305,303
	601 Electronic Travel Authority	2,034,519
	651 eVisitor	803,308
	676 Tourist	13
	956 Electronic Travel Authority (Business Entrant - Long Validity)	3,334
	976 Electronic Travel Authority (Visitor)	<5
Working Holiday Maker	417 Working Holiday	87,083
	462 Work and Holiday	16,249
TOTAL		6,163,338

Note: Many temporary visas have a multiple entry facility attached. Therefore some temporary visa holders would have previously travelled to Australia on their visa, and some would have not.

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AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-100

Subject: Temporary Visa Holders - travel ban exemption

Asked by: Rachel Siewert

Question:

How many temporary visa holders not in Australia have applied for a travel ban exemption?

- a. Please break down into visa subclasses
- b. How many of these applications have been accepted?
- c. How many of these applications have been rejected?
- d. How many applicants have made multiple applications?
- e. How many rejected applications have been later accepted?
- i. Have all applications that were initially rejected, but later accepted, been accepted on the basis of a new/re-application?
- ii. If not, why?

Answer:

The Department of Home Affairs has received 40,147 requests for exemption from Australia's travel restrictions from persons seeking to enter Australia, during the period 20 March to 3 June 2020 inclusive. This figure includes requests related to transiting Australia, as well as requests from persons who have asked for consideration as immediate family members of Australian citizens or permanent residents. This figure also includes requests from temporary visa holders, as well as persons who do not hold an Australian visa.

Departmental systems do not allow for the ready reporting of requests for travel ban exemptions by visa status and the type of visa held. Such data could only be obtained manually, which would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Temporary visa holders are exempt from requiring Commissioner's Discretion to depart Australia as this only applies to Australian Citizens and Permanent Residents.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-101

Subject: Temporary Visa Holders - travel ban exemption

Asked by: Rachel Siewert

Question:

How many temporary visa holders not in Australia have not made an application for a travel exemption?

a. Please break down into visa subclasses.

Answer:

As at 7 June 2020, there were 6,075,504 temporary visa holders offshore. Departmental systems do not allow for the ready reporting of temporary visa holders who are offshore and have not applied for a travel exemption.

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AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-102

Subject: Temporary Visa Holders - travel ban exemption - depart Australia

Asked by: Rachel Siewert

Question:

How many temporary visa holders in Australia have applied for a travel ban exemption to leave Australia?

- a. Please break down into visa subclasses.
- b. How many of these applicants have family, including partners, not in Australia who have applied and been rejected for a travel ban exemption to enter Australia?
- c. How many of these applications have been rejected?
- d. How many of these application have been accepted?

Answer:

Temporary visa holders do not require an exemption to leave Australia.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-103

Subject: Travel Ban Exemptions - depart Australia

Asked by: Rachel Siewert

Question:

How many permanent residents or citizens in Australia have applied for a travel ban exemption to leave Australia?

- a. Please break down into permanent residents or citizens.
- b. How many of these applicants have family, including partners, not in Australia who have applied and been rejected for a travel ban exemption to enter Australia?
- c. How many of these applications have been accepted?
- d. How many of these applications have been rejected?

Answer:

As of 1 June 2020, 33,047* requests for an exemption from Australia's travel restrictions in order to depart Australia have been received by the Department.

**A substantial proportion of travel exemption requests are not referred to the Australian Border Force Commissioner for decision due to a lack of supporting evidence; were assessed as exempt from travel restrictions; or prima facie did not present sufficiently compelling circumstances to warrant further consideration. A request may cover more than one person. An individual may submit multiple applications.*

Response to question A and B:

This data is not currently possible to collate due to system limitations.

Response to question C-D:

<i>Outwards Travel Exemption Applications (considered by the ABF Delegate) as at 1 June 2020, inclusive</i>	<i>Approved</i>	<i>Rejected</i>
Total	5,972	1,719

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-104

Subject: Travel Ban Exemptions being considered

Asked by: Rachel Siewert

Question:

The Government has said it will consider exempting international students from Australia's travel ban in July. Will it also be considering exempting other temporary visa subclasses in July?

- a. If so, which visa subclasses?
- b. When is the Government considering exempting other temporary visa subclasses not being considered in July?

Answer:

The travel ban exemptions are a matter for the Government.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-105

Subject: Temporary Visa Holders - expiring

Asked by: Rachel Siewert

Question:

How many temporary visa holders not in Australia will have their visa expire in the next six months?

- a. Please break down into visa subclasses.
- b. Please break down into month of expiry.

Answer:

The following table provides the number of temporary visa holders not in Australia whose visas will expire over the next six months, by month of expiry and visa subclass:

Visa Subclass	In-Effect Until Date - Month					
	30/06/2020	31/07/2020	31/08/2020	30/09/2020	31/10/2020	30/11/2020
Bridging						
020 Bridging B	661	352	250	299	277	505
Crew and Transit						
771 Transit	2,533	1,578	1,706	1,402	1,883	1,976
988 Maritime Crew Visa	12,804	13,087	15,308	15,874	15,926	16,636
Other Temporary						
580 Student Guardian	<5	21		<5		
590 Student Guardian	9	17	8	<5	5	<5
602 Medical Treatment	37	22	19	12	12	5
685 Medical Treatment (Long Stay)			<5		<5	
950 Criminal Justice Entry		<5				
Student						
500 Student	4,771	7,602	11,677	5,848	2,366	2,912
570 Independent ELICOS Sector			<5			
571 Schools Sector						<5
572 Vocational Education and Training Sector	18	<5	<5	5	<5	<5
573 Higher Education Sector	<5	9	638	668		
574 Postgraduate Research Sector	79	49	85	196	200	114
575 Non-Award Sector				<5		
576 Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector	6	<5	<5	<5		
Temporary Protection						
785 Temporary Protection		<5	<5			<5
Temporary Resident (Other Employment)						
400 Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity)	1,825	1,487	1,782	1,499	13	88
403 Temporary Work (International Relations)	126	81	95	132	135	41
405 Investor Retirement	<5	<5	7	5	<5	8
407 Training	63	88	83	88	54	33
408 Temporary Activity	3,945	1,178	1,438	1,402	422	272
410 Retirement	70	64	60	54	31	89
461 New Zealand Citizen Family Relationship (Temporary)	33	63	42	35	45	50
476 Skilled - Recognised Graduate	36	33	45	36	44	32
485 Temporary Graduate	386	270	546	632	799	693
995 Diplomatic (Temporary)	37	21	19	49	22	35
Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)						
457 Temporary Work (Skilled)	960	894	1,084	799	853	733
482 Temporary Skill Shortage	372	502	514	509	598	483
Visitor						
456 Business (Short Stay)	6	8	11	6	<5	7
600 Visitor	116,278	133,979	127,520	118,496	122,985	131,538
601 Electronic Travel Authority	205,533	240,955	222,471	211,953	245,322	244,923
651 eVisitor	52,074	60,694	65,765	86,111	107,086	113,820
676 Tourist				<5		<5
956 Electronic Travel Authority (Business Entrant - Long Validity)	165	160	148	158	163	106
Working Holiday Maker						
417 Working Holiday	6,501	5,609	7,189	11,163	11,257	9,855
462 Work and Holiday	1,172	1,417	1,673	1,629	1,689	1,482
	410,506	470,251	460,193	459,070	512,194	526,442

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AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-106

Subject: Travel Ban Exemption - exemption categories

Asked by: Rachel Siewert

Question:

In previous evidence to the Committee, the Commissioner of the Australian Border Force referred to “compassionate category” of travel ban exemption applications, and to “humanitarian cases”. What are the different categories the Department is using to process applications?

- a. How are applications allocated to different categories?
- b. Please provide a breakdown of numbers of applications in each category.
- c. Please break down into accepted and rejected applications.
- d. Can an applicant apply for an exemption in one category, but be accepted in another?
 - i. If so, why?

Answer:

Response to question A:

A request for a travel exemption is made via the web-form on the Department of Home Affairs website (covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au). All applications are reviewed and triaged. Requests may not progress to the ABF Commissioner for decision if the review determines that the person: is already exempt from Australia’s travel restrictions; has not provided sufficient information or documentary evidence to support the claimed circumstance; or prima facie does not meet one of the categories under which exemption can be considered.

Response to questions B, C:

Applications may contain more than one person and not all persons within an application may receive an exemption. The below data shows the number of requests considered by the ABF Commissioner against the categories described and does not include requests which were not referred to the ABF Commissioner for decision.

Inwards Travel Exemptions considered by the ABF Commissioner (as at 1 June, inclusive):

Category	Approved	Refused
Business Leaders	63	6
Students	129	<5
TPV/SHEV	329	34
Medevac Patients	32	0
Critical medical services	263	<5
Critical skills - other	514	27
Diplomats	130	<5
Compassionate reasons	968	250
Transits	5667	9
Total	8095	333

Outwards Travel Exemptions considered by the ABF Commissioner (as at 1 June inclusive):

Category	Approved	Refused
In response to the COVID-19 outbreak	104	24
Essential travel for critical industries and business	896	173
Urgent medical treatment	74	39
Personal business	1,458	519
Compassionate reasons	3,403	964
National interest	37	0
Total	5,972	1719

Response to questions D, I:

A request will be considered on its merits for exemption against all relevant categories. Requests may raise claims under more than one exemption category.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-107

Subject: Partner Visas

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How many people are currently waiting for their partner visa to be processed as of 1 May 2020?

a. Please provide statistics separated for onshore and offshore applicants

Answer:

On hand Partner stream applications at 1 May 2020:

		1 May 2020
OFFSHORE SUBCLASSES		
Prospective Marriage (subclass 300) visa	Primary applicants	3,868
	Total applicants	4,721
Partner (Provisional) (subclass 309) visa	Primary applicants	18,786
	Total applicants	27,014
Partner (Migrant) (subclass 100) visa*	Primary applicants	37,824
	Total applicants	48,760
ONSHORE SUBCLASSES		
Partner (Temporary) (subclass 820) visa	Primary applicants	58,080
	Total applicants	62,126
Partner (Residence) (subclass 801) visa*	Primary applicants	86,205
	Total applicants	92,034
Partner Total on hand	Primary applicants	204,763
	Total applicants	234,665

Note: Partner visa applications involve a two stage process, and the two applications must be lodged together. That is, the offshore Partner (Provisional) (subclass 309) visa is lodged with the Partner (Migrant) (subclass 100) visa; and the onshore Partner (Temporary) (subclass 820) visa is lodged with the Partner (Residence) (subclass 801) visa. The two applications are counted separately, and in the majority of cases decided at different times. The total on hand figures above therefore represent the total of on hand applications, and not the total of individuals.

* Second stage Partner applications (subclasses 801 Partner (Residence) visa and 100 Partner (Migrant) visa) generally become eligible for assessment two years after lodgement of the combined first/second stage application. Figures include on hand applications which are not yet eligible for assessment. Second stage Partner visa grants are not counted in the Migration Program.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-108

Subject: Temporary Visa Holders remaining in Australia

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How many temporary visa holders does the department estimate remain in Australia as of 1 May 2020?

a. If possible, please provide a breakdown by visa type

Answer:

The Department of Home Affairs produces statistics on the number of temporary visa holders in Australia at the end of each month. This data is published on www.data.gov.au quarterly.

On 30 April 2020, there were 2,095,191 temporary visa holders in Australia. The table below outlines details on temporary visa holders in Australia by visa category.

Visa Category	As at 30/04/2020
Bridging	295,466
Crew and Transit	9,739
Other Temporary	5,463
Special Category	671,001
Student	559,755
Visitor	163,108
Working Holiday Maker	98,830
Temporary Resident (Other Employment)	138,240
Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)	136,192
Temporary Protection	17,397
Total	2,095,191

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-109

Subject: Temporary Visa Holders - returned to country of origin

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How many temporary visa holders does the department estimate have returned to their country of origin as of 1 May 2020?

a. If possible, please provide a breakdown by visa type

Answer:

While the Department does hold departure data for temporary visa holders, it is not possible to determine how many of those that departed returned to their countries of origin and for what reason.

The following table shows the number of temporary visa holders who departed Australia during the period from 20 March 2020 (when Australia closed its borders to non-citizens and non-residents) to 1 May 2020.

Visa Category	Departures from 20/03/2020 to 01/05/2020
Crew and Transit	20,900
Other Temporary	199
Special Category	13,634
Student	15,542
Temporary Protection	<5
Temporary Resident (Other Employment)	2,859
Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)	1,780
Visitor	32,832
Working Holiday Maker	23,016
Total Departures	110,763

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19 .

QoN Number: CV19-110

Subject: Temporary Visa Holders - COVID-19 restrictions

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

Is the Department aware of estimates for how many temporary visa holders became unemployed as a consequence of COVID-19 restrictions?

- a. If yes, please provide the estimates and the sources of those estimates
- b. If no, please explain why the Department has not sought to identify the number of temporary visa holders who have lost their job.

Answer:

The Department of Home Affairs does not have a mechanism to identify temporary visa holders who have become unemployed as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

There is no requirement for visa holders or employers subject to temporary employer sponsored visas to advise the Department as to the reasons (for example, due to COVID-19 restrictions) for a change of employment status.

In addition, many temporary visa holders have work rights (such as student visa holders) but may not necessarily be working, if employment is not a condition or obligation under their visa.