

Question on notice no. 215

Portfolio question number: AE21-215

2020-21 Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator the Hon Kristina Keneally: asked the Australian Border Force on 22 March 2021—

Senator KENEALLY: This might be better addressed to the commissioner of the Border Force. How many non-citizens have arrived in Australia since 1 December 2020?

Mr Outram: I have total arrivals. Sorry, let me just get the right brief here, Senator. I was reading a brief just before I came in that I think goes to this. As at 28 February 2021, the total number of arrivals?are you asking for inwards exemptions?

Senator KENEALLY: No, noncitizens.

Mr Outram: Noncitizens, which are inwards exemptions. With the inwards exemptions, I only have to approve people who are not exempt. So those who are exempt are, of course, Australians and permanent residents who are not citizens and their immediately family.

Senator KENEALLY: So, let's make it people who are not citizens or permanent residents, for the sake of simplicity.

Mr Outram: As of 28 February, 38,589 had been approved to come.

Senator KENEALLY: Over what time period?

Mr Outram: That's going back, I am assuming, to the start of the measure last year. I'll get the exact date. This count starts from 1 August 2020, so from then there were 38,589 approved and 76,652 refused. I can give you a snapshot, for example, of the past 24 hours. This is taken for 21 March 2021, so this is a 24-hour snapshot. For inward travel exemptions we approved 44 and refused 161. That gives you a sense of the scale of the thing.

...

Senator KENEALLY: On this section, yes, thank you. Commissioner, from that date, 1 August 2020, on the number you just gave me, 38,589?I'm happy for you to take this on notice?is that able to be broken down in terms of tourist visas, temporary work visas, significant investor visas and superyacht crew visas?

Mr Kefford: Senator, for those categories, we could take that on notice.

Senator KENEALLY: Thank you, Mr Kefford, I appreciate that.

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES
22 MARCH 2021

Home Affairs Portfolio
Department of Home Affairs

Program 1.2: Border Management
AE21-215 - Arrival of Non-Citizens

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Mr Kefford: Senator, for those categories, we could take that on notice.

Senator KENEALLY: Thank you, Mr Kefford, I appreciate that.

Answer:

Note: The figure of 38,589, quoted in the question above, is the total number of inwards travel exemptions approvals from **20 March 2020 to 28 February 2021**, inclusive. A correction to Hansard has been provided.

Approved inwards travel exemption requests 1 August 2020 – 28 February 2021; by visa subclass applied for or held by individual

Travel exemption data cannot be disaggregated by visa subclass prior to 1 August 2020, when processing of travel exemption requests moved to the Travel Exemption Portal. Therefore, the table below provides the requested information for the period 1 August 2020 – 28 February 2021 inclusive and does not include any approvals between 20 March 2020 – 31 July 2021.

Visa Subclass	Number
482 - Temporary Skill Shortage	6,717
400 - Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist)	3,339
600 - Visitor	1,182
408 - Temporary Activity	1,123
500 - Student	1,092
651 - eVisitor	534
407 - Training	370
601 - Electronic Travel Authority	362
457 - Temporary Work (Skilled)	338
489 - Skilled – Regional (Provisional)	334
602 - Medical Treatment	334
403 - Temporary Work (International Relations)	250
485 - Temporary Graduate	245
491 - Subclass 491—Skilled Work Regional (Provisional)	216
417 - Working Holiday	153
20 - Bridging B	135
200 - Refugee	127
204 - Woman at Risk	81
188 - Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional)	60
All other visa subclasses	729
Visa not required *	586
Other **	7,020
Total	25,327

* Includes certain categories of persons who are not required to have applied for or hold a visa prior to submitting a travel exemption request, including persons with 'prescribed status' eligible for a Special Purpose visa and persons applying under the critical skills category.

** Prior to 3 December 2020, visa subclass data was only captured for the primary traveller in a travel exemption request.

This figure includes individuals who declared they did not hold or had not applied for a visa, as well as individuals with no captured visa subclass information.

Notes:

- i. 'Requests' means individuals who sought an exemption. An individual may submit more than one request.
- ii. The sum of approved and refused requests may not equate to the total number of requests received in the same period, as requests may be otherwise finalised (persons found to meet an already exempt category, withdrawn requests, or requests that did not contain sufficient information for referral to a decision maker); or received or finalised outside the reporting period.