

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 27 February 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE17/087) - Classifications of threat or risk for Maritime Crew Visas - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA 136) asked:

Senator PRATT: Does the department have a system to identify when a person is a known threat or risk when they apply for one of these visas?

Ms Dacey: Yes, that would be that 'washing' process that I was just referring to.

Senator PRATT: It is certainly substantively different to the kind of reviews you were talking about before. What types of offences would set that off?

Mr Pezzullo: Sorry, Senator, I am—

Senator PRATT: I understand people are not migrating to Australia or working here long term, so that is a substantive difference. I will try not to divert us. What types of offences would set that off?

Ms Dacey: I will take the question on notice because I do not want to give you the wrong information. I just do not have that level of detail here.

Senator PRATT: If you could take on notice the different classifications of threat or risk for that visa class. I understand now that Border Force is combined with the department of immigration much more closely, and so it brings into play the comparison of checks between Australian maritime workers before they can be allowed on ships or ports in Australia. Would you say that Australian maritime workers are subject to extensive background checks relative to—

Answer:

The Maritime Crew (Subclass 988) visa (MCV) balances maintaining the integrity of the border and the realities of the international shipping industry. It is designed to facilitate the large volumes of foreign crew requiring visas to travel to Australia while seeking to reduce and mitigate any known and emerging risks in the caseload.

MCV applications are subject to various risk system checks including national security, character, fraud and identifiers of non-genuine entry or employment.

Risk indicators that may trigger an application for further assessment by a visa processing officer include previous overstay of visas, fraudulent documents, or known criminal convictions.