

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 March 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE17/274) - Maritime Crew Visas - Programme 2.3: Visas**

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA) written:

Please outline the eligibility for a Maritime Crew Visa and what conditions are placed on a Maritime Crew Visa holder?

How many Maritime Crew Visas were issued in:

2013/2014

2014/2015

2015/2016

2016/2017

How many Maritime Crew Visas were cancelled in:

2013/2014

2014/2015

2015/2016

2016/2017

*Answer:*

### Eligibility

The Maritime Crew (subclass 988) visa (MCV) is a temporary visa for crew who are employed on non-military ships on international voyages to Australia. Crew may be eligible to apply for an MCV if they:

- are outside Australia;
- are an articulated member of crew on a non-military ship that is taking an international voyage to Australia;
- are not an Australian Citizen; and
- will enter or leave Australia by sea as sea crew.

Crew undertaking scientific research on a research ship owned by a foreign government may also apply for an MCV.

A non-military vessel must be:

- used for commercial trading (cargo); or
- used for carrying paying passengers; or
- owned and operated by a foreign government to do scientific research; or
- approved for 'public vessel status' by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

MCV applicants must also meet public interest criteria relating to character, national security checking, foreign policy interests, debts to the Commonwealth, exclusion periods from previous visa non-compliance, fraud and identity.

## MCV conditions

Condition 8113 is imposed on all MCV prohibiting the holder from working in Australia other than as a member of the crew of a non-military ship.

MCV holders cannot travel to or enter Australia by air. The non-citizen must also obtain another class of visa that allows travel and entry to Australia by air. Those crew obtaining a visa to arrive by air and intending to join a ship in Australia must sign on to that ship within five days of their arrival or the MCV will cease.

## MCV grants and cancellations

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17 to 31/03/17
<b>MCV Grants</b>	265,331	261,117	281,207	225,936
<b>MCV Cancellations*</b>	272	103	125	36

\* Figures include onshore and offshore visa cancellations. A visa may be recorded as cancelled more than once: An example of a visa being recorded as cancelled more than once is if the visa is cancelled, and the cancellation is subsequently revoked or set aside, and then the visa is cancelled again. A cancellation may be revoked or set aside for a number of reasons, including further legal proceedings, and administrative or jurisdictional errors, etc. Duplicates may also exist.

It is also possible for an MCV that has been granted to be ceased prior to or on the person's arrival in Australia. This is different to cancellation. Under subsection 33B(3) of the *Migration Act 1958* an MCV can be ceased on the basis that it is undesirable for that person, or class of persons, to travel to and enter Australia, or remain in Australia.