

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/168) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

How many migration agents have been de-registered:

- In the financial year 2013-14?
- Since 7 September 2013?
- Since the previous estimates hearing in February?

What were the reasons for each de-registration?

Answer:

In the financial year 2013-14 the registration of one agent was cancelled. The agent was found to have assisted international students to obtain fraudulent positive skills assessments and visas under the General Skilled Migration Visa Program. One agent was suspended for 12 months, for failure to act competently, diligently and fairly, or with due regard to his clients' dependence on his skill and knowledge, and failure to maintain proper financial and client records. This decision was substituted to a caution for 3 years with remedial conditions, following a direction to reconsider the decision by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. One agent (who had allowed his registration to lapse) was barred from applying for registration for one year. The agent departed Australia without making proper arrangements for the continued provision of immigration services to his clients, with the consequence that the agent failed to provide immigration assistance to three clients despite receiving a fee.

Since 7 September 2013 one agent has been suspended for 12 months, (changed to a caution for 3 years after a direction to reconsider the decision by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal). One agent (who had allowed his registration to lapse) has been barred from applying for registration for one year.

Since the previous estimates hearing in February 2014 no agents have been deregistered for disciplinary reasons.