

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/084) - 417 Investigations - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 70) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: Yes, in relation to 417 visas. If this was not particularly new to you, if the department has known for some time that we have a problem in this area—

Mr Outram: I can come back to you in terms of not just prosecutions but field actions that occurred in relation to that issue; of which there were many. I cannot give you that off the top of my head now. That information is available for you—

Senator KIM CARR: The last two years will do us. Advice on the last two years of prosecutions.

Mr Outram: I will give you prosecutions and other activities, because of course prosecutions are appropriate in some cases where you are talking about large-scale exploitation, but it always depends on the evidence that is available and the standard that the prosecution requires. There is a lot of action we take in relation to compliance activity, all the way from education through to infringement notices through to prosecutions. So there are a range of actions that are taken. I will come back to you with some statistics.

Answer:

As at 31 May 2015, there were six current criminal investigations into Working Holiday visa fraud. In the last two years, there has been one criminal prosecution into Working Holiday visa fraud, as a result of a joint agency investigation.