QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May

By: *DIBP*   <u>Tabled Document No</u> *7.*

Date: *26.05.15*

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

Student Visa Programme – Instances of Fraud

Senator Carr requested:

The number of incidents of document fraud in the student visa programme by visa subclass and post. In addition Senator Carr requested information about how many incidents of fraud involved education agents.

Answer:

In the 2014-15 financial year (to 30 April 2015) our systems show that officers refused 771 student visa applications where they identified fraud (these include incidents of document fraud).

Refusal where fraud was indicated by visa subclass:

Subclass	Grants	Total refusals	Refusals where fraud indicated
Independent ELICOS Sector (subclass 570)	28,210	2,005	62
Schools Sector (subclass 571)	8,652	1,018	40
Vocational Education and Training Sector (subclass 572)	55,465	7,365	190
Higher education Sector (subclass 573)	130,864	11,415	472
Postgraduate research Sector (subclass 574)	9,594	155	
Non-Award Sector (subclass 575)	12,000	63	
Student Guardian (subclass 580)	5,409	46	7
Total	**250,194**	**22,069**	771

New Delhi post refused the most visas where fraud was indicated (328).

Applicants with a passport issued by India were most likely to be refused where fraud was indicated with 362 refusals in 2014-15 (to 30 April 2015).

Top five passport countries:

Country	Number	Percentage of fraud refusals compared to other refusals from that country
India	362	6.3
Pakistan	76	2.1
Vietnam	65	4.5
Thailand	64	8.2
People's Republic of China	34	1.2

According to departmental systems, 50 of the 771 refusals where fraud was identified in 2014-15 (to April 2015) declared that they had used an agent (education or migration agent). Education agents primarily assist education providers with student recruitment. Education agents might not help an applicant with their visa process and therefore would not be declared to the department.