

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/317) PROGRAMME –

Senator Ludwig (L&CA 5) asked:

Senator LUDWIG: If they were on a work bridging visa—my words—it expired and you then called it no fault, does that change their status in terms of work, or does it continue on?

Ms Pope: It does. They do not have work rights while the visa is expired.

Senator LUDWIG: How many are in that subset, and how long does it take to get them a new bridging visa?

Ms Pope: To get detail I would have to take that on notice because it varies quite a lot by cohort and so on, but Mr Cormack has already given the figures around those that are in effect and expired. In relation to those who had work rights, 3,879 remain in effect with work rights and 1,236 have ceased and no longer have work rights.

Answer:

As at 27 November 2014, there were 4 948 illegal maritime arrivals in the community who had previously been granted a Bridging E visa without restrictions on employment (so called ‘work rights’).

Of the 4 948 people granted Bridging E visas with no restriction on work, 3 801 had visas that were in effect with continuing work rights and 1 147 had visas that had ceased and therefore no longer had work rights.

There is no set timeframe on the process for grant of a Bridging E visa. Timeframes are, amongst other factors, dependent upon the individual circumstances of the person.