

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 February 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(9) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Bartlett asked:

1. What was the total number of cases that was referred to Minister Cobb for intervention?
2. What was the number of cases whereby ministerial discretion was exercised by Minister Cobb?

Answer:

1. Mr Cobb was Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs between 6 July 2005 and 27 January 2006 and held the ministerial intervention power during that time. Over that period, the Department referred 664 cases to Mr Cobb in relation to possible use of his intervention power under section 417 of the *Migration Act 1958*. Of these, 426 were drawn to his attention on schedules, having been assessed by DIMA as not meeting the guidelines for possible ministerial intervention. 238 of the cases were referred to Mr Cobb in submissions, having been assessed by DIMA as falling within the Ministerial Intervention guidelines.
2. Mr Cobb exercised his public interest powers in 84 cases. In a number of other cases, Mr Cobb had not concluded his consideration at the time he ceased to be Minister.