

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 FEBRUARY 2008**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

### **(22) Output 1.4: Compliance**

Senator Ellison (L&CA 71) Asked:

How many section 501 cancellations has the minister considered?

*Answer:*

The Minister has reviewed his role in personally making decisions on individual immigration cases. He will retain the role of decision-maker only where there is a legislative requirement for the Minister to undertake a section 501 consideration or there are exceptional circumstances. All other decisions have been delegated to Departmental officers, consistent with the Act. This approach promotes greater transparency and accountability and ensures that, where appropriate, decisions are subject to merits as well as judicial review.

In this context, between 1 January 2008 and 31 March 2008 the Minister was required to consider only one case for visa cancellation. This case fell within the legislative requirement that the Minister personally consider the case. During this same period 24 section 501 cancellation decisions were made by Departmental delegates.