

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(119) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash asked:

How many requests for intervention did the Minister receive to exercise his powers under section 417 of the Migration Act in the year to date? How many times did the Minister intervene to grant a visa? What type of visa was granted? What is the breakdown by country of origin?

Answer:

In the 2010 - 11 program year as at 25 February 2011, 1621 requests were made to the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship to intervene under section 417 of the *Migration Act 1958* (the Act) to substitute a decision more favourable to a person for a decision made by the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT).

During the 2010 - 11 program year as at 25 February 2011, 271 visas were granted through Ministerial Intervention (MI) under section 417 of the Act.

Type of visas granted through MI under section 417 of the Act in 2010 - 11 program year as at 25 February 2011

Type of visa	
151 (Former resident)	165
155 (Five year resident return)	5
202 (Global special humanitarian)	3
457 (Business (long stay))	1
676 (Tourist)	28
801 (Spouse)	3
835 (Remaining Relative)	2
836 (Carer)	50
838 (Aged Dependent Relative)	12
890 (Business Owner (Residence))	2
Total	271

Country of origin of persons granted visas through MI under section 417 of the Act in 2010 - 11 program year as at 25 February 2011

The table below provides details of the top ten nationalities of persons that were granted visas through MI under section 417 of the Act in current program year as at 25 February 2011

Other nationalities of persons granted visas through MI under section 417 for the above specified period included:

Albania, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma (Myanmar), Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Germany, Ghana, Hong Kong, Iran, Korea (Democratic Peoples Republic of), Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Peru, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Taiwan, Timor East, Tonga, Turkey, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

A small number of visa grants were also made to stateless individuals.

Top ten nationalities granted visas through MI under section 417 of the Act

Country of origin	2010- 11(Year to Date)
Indonesia	55
Fiji	29
China	26
Bangladesh	23
India	14
Sri Lanka	13
Korea, Republic of	11
Egypt, Arab Republic of	8
Philippines	8
Lebanon	7
Other	77
Total	271