

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(148) Program 3.1: Border Management

Senator Cash asked:

What is the percentage of people refused immigration at airports and seaports, as a proportion of total passenger and crew arrivals for the period 30 June 2010 to date? How does this compare with the target of <0.0155? What does that figure translate to in terms of numbers of people refused immigration? Please provide the reasons for which these people were refused immigration?

Answer:

Between 1 July 2010 and 31 January 2011, there were 9.3 million arrivals by passengers and crew through Australia's air and seaports. Of this, a total of 982 people, or 0.011% were refused immigration clearance. This is less than 0.015%, which is a predictive figure rather than a target.

A person may be refused immigration clearance where they arrive in Australia and are unable to meet the entry requirements of s166 of the Migration Act 1958. This usually occurs where a person either has their visa cancelled or refused at the border, or is unable or refuses to show evidence of a visa at the border.

The reasons for a person being refused immigration clearance may include:

- Non-bona fide – This is the most common reason for refusal, and is where a person's visa has been cancelled following an adverse bona-fides assessment. An example of this is where a person demonstrates an intention to act in breach of the conditions specified in their visa, such as an intention to work.
- Character concern – This is the second most common reason for refusal, and involves a person being refused immigration clearance following visa cancellation or refusal on the basis of character concerns. This would generally occur in circumstances where the person does not meet a character related condition or eligibility requirement on their visa. An example of this is where the visa requirement provides that the holder or applicant must not have sentences of imprisonment totalling 12 months or more.
- Inappropriately documented – This category includes people refused immigration clearance where they have been found to have inappropriate documentation in order to enter Australia. This includes persons who arrive without documentation, persons who present fraudulent documentation, persons who present to immigration as an impostor, and persons who arrive without a visa that is in effect.