

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(170) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash asked:

How many section 501 cases have been considered by the department and by the Minister in 2009-10 and how many in 2008-09? How many visas were (a) refused and (b) cancelled by the Minister and the department?

Answer:

In this response, considered means that the case was assessed for either refusal or cancellation.

In 2008-09, the Department considered 671 cases and the Minister considered one case.

In 2009-10, 1518 cases were considered by the Department and the Minister considered one case under subsection 501A(2).

In 2008-09, the Department cancelled 86 visas under section 501. During this period the Minister did not personally cancel any visas under section 501. In the 2008-09 program year, the Department refused visas to 123 people under section 501 and the Minister refused a visa to one person under section 501.

In 2009-10, the Department cancelled 58 visas under section 501. The Minister cancelled one visa under subsection 501A(2) after the Department's original decision had been set aside by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. In 2009-10, the Department refused 156 visas. During this period the Minister did not personally refuse any visas under section 501.