

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0292) Program: 3.1 Border management

Senator Cash asked:

1. How many travellers to Australia have presented with false or altered documents?
2. What happens to them?

Answer:

1. The number of inappropriately documented arrivals at Australian air and seaports for program year 2011-12 as at 31 January 2012 was 84 (this does not include irregular maritime arrivals).

Non-citizen travellers arriving at an air or seaport in Australia may be refused immigration clearance on a number of grounds, including for presenting inappropriate documentation to clearance officers. 'Inappropriately documented arrivals' refers to travellers who were refused immigration clearance at the border because they:

- (i) arrived on a genuine passport without a visa in effect and were not granted a visa in clearance,
 - (ii) arrived without a travel document,
 - (iii) arrived without a travel document that was in force,
 - (iv) arrived with a bogus travel document or a genuine travel document that had been fraudulently altered, or,
 - (v) arrived with a travel document issued to someone else.
2. Of the 84 cases of travellers found to be inappropriately documented (this does not include irregular maritime arrivals) at air and seaports over the program year 2011-12 to 31 January 2012, 38 were airport travellers found to be inappropriately documented and were refused immigration clearance.

Of these 38 airport travellers, 21 raised claims that prima facie engaged Australia's protection obligations and could therefore not be removed immediately. The remaining 17 travellers were removed from Australia within a 72 hour period.

The remaining 46 inappropriately documented travellers arrived at seaports within the program year 2011-12 to 31 January 2012. All 46 travellers departed after being identified at the border.