

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/086) PROGRAMME – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Singh (L&CA 114) asked:

Senator SINGH: Have any significant investment visas been granted since the announcement of the minister's press release?

Dr Southern: Certainly some of those primary visas granted would have been granted since the minister's press release, but I do not have that number?

Senator SINGH: How many have been granted?

Dr Southern: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator SINGH: Why wouldn't you have that number?

Dr Southern: The number of visas issued since the minister's press release? I simply have the total number granted.

Mr Bowles: We manage the program as a program, not on press releases. I think that is the real answer. We can take it on notice if you have a specific date you would like us to do.

Senator SINGH: Let us take that on notice. Can you give me some kind of figure, though, of the number from the date that you can give it from?

Dr Southern: I have the number for those granted this financial year, to 31 January. That number was the 116 that I gave you earlier.

Senator SINGH: Okay, and you will take it on notice from the date of the press release?

Dr Southern: That is correct.

Answer:

Between 1 December 2013 and 28 February 2014, a total of 69 primary applicants were granted a Significant Investor visa.