

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### (AE14/211) PROGRAMME – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

- (a) How many people enter the country with a tourist or visitor visa annually (use last year's figures or ask for whatever is the most up to date)
- (b) What is the level of compliance for people on these visas?
- (c) What are the main reasons for non-compliance?
- (d) How does the Department monitor these visas to ensure compliance?
- (e) Is it a random sample size?
- (f) If so, how big is the sample?
- (g) If not, what other methodologies does the Department employ?
- (h) Does the department operate on "tip offs"?
- (i) How many people (since 7 September 2013) have entered Australia on a visitor/tourist visa and sought asylum?

*Answer:*

- (a) Arrivals for tourists and visitors (visa subclasses include: 456, 459, 600, 601, 651, 676, 679, 956, 976 and 977) were as follows:

2013-14 (to January 2014)	2 570 228
2012-13	3 957 520
2011-12	3 728 355
2010-11	3 713 638

Please note that this data is based on the revised methodology, which was released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on 11 March 2014.

- (b) Overall compliance with Australia's immigration requirements is very high. The vast majority of people comply with Australia's migration laws. In 2012-13, more than 99 per cent of approximately 5 million temporary entrants complied with the requirement to maintain their lawful immigration status, or to depart Australia voluntarily prior to their visas expiring.
- (c) People who do not comply do so for a range of reasons. They may become unlawful non-citizens because they overstay their visas or their visas are cancelled for a breach of conditions.

- (d) The department works in partnership with other Australian Government and state and territory government agencies to identify instances of non-compliance with immigration law and visa conditions. This includes working closely with Centrelink and local employment bodies to identify people who may not be entitled to remain in Australia. Compliance field activity is planned and executed in close consultation with law enforcement agencies where illegal activity may be involved.
- (e) Not applicable.
- (f) Not applicable.
- (g) Compliance activities are aimed at locating unlawful non-citizens and non-citizens working in breach of visa conditions. Such activities are prioritised according to risk, including disengaged non-citizens and non-citizens with histories of repeated non-compliance.
- (h) The department maintains a Dob-in-Service whereby the public can report cases of potential immigration malpractice or visa fraud. All allegations are assessed and where warranted are referred to the relevant area of the department for appropriate risk treatment.
- (i) Note that during this period, 1 829 applications were made for protection by those who arrived on visitor/tourist visas (see the table below for a breakdown by subclass). Of these applications, six have been successful, 26 have been unsuccessful, 66 have been withdrawn or were found to be invalid at primary assessment and 1 731 are still in process.

### **Visitors & Working Holiday Makers lodged Protection Visa Apps since 7 September 2013**

Data Date: 14 March 2014

Arrival Visa Subclass	Total
417 (Working Holiday (Temporary))	15
459 (Sponsored Business Visitor (Short Stay) )	6
462 (Work and Holiday (Temporary))	3
600 (Visitor)	991
601 (Electronic Travel Authority)	44
651 (eVisitor)	3
670 (Tourist (Short stay))	2
676 (Tourist )	580
679 (Sponsored Family Visitor )	69
686 (Tourist (Long stay))	2
956 (Electronic Travel Authority (Business Entrant – Long Validity))	2
976 (Electronic Travel Authority (Visitor))	111
977 (Electronic Travel Authority (Business Entrant – Short Validity))	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 829</b>

