

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21- 22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0186) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash (L&CA 62) asked:

Update of AE12/0155.

Answer:

In response to the Question on Notice AE12/0155, the Department advised that only one Prospective Marriage visa holder had applied for a protection visa between 1 July 2011 and 31 December 2011. The table below was included in the response.

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-31/12/2011	Total
28	65	40	56	1	190

Further interrogation of the Department's systems has since revealed that the figure of '1' reported for the period 2011 to 31/12/2012 was incorrect. The correct number of applicants was, at that date, 32. As at 27 April 2012, that number had increased to 54. Below is the updated table of Prospective visa holders who applied for protection visas:

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-27/04/2012	Total
28	65	40	56	54	243

The Department has identified an error in the cross checking procedure that occurred when the system was interrogated for the statistics provided in response to Question on Notice AE12/0155, hence the inaccurate results. Stronger procedures are being put in place to avoid similar errors occurring in future reporting.