

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0342) Program 4.1: Visa compliance and status resolution

Senator Cash (L&CA 41) asked:

How many sponsors of Partner visas previously held protection visas?

Answer:

From 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012, a total of 1265 Partner visas have been granted to applicants whose sponsor was able to be matched and formerly held a Humanitarian or Protection visa. This figure represents 3.2 per cent of the total number of Partner visa grants for the same year.

This figure is taken from the approximately 85 per cent of all Partner visa grants that are able to be automatically matched to a sponsor for reporting purposes.

During the Estimates hearing, Senator Cash asked if this figure could be split between Irregular Maritime Arrivals (IMA) and other Protection visa holders (non IMA). The table below sets out the number of Partner visa sponsors who hold a Humanitarian or Protection visa and whether they arrived in Australia as an IMA or not.

Partner visa grants made to applicants whose sponsor is a previous holder of a Protection or Humanitarian visa						
Matchable sponsor found	Year					
Humanitarian/PV Sponsor	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
IMA	317	326	198	165	224	146
non IMA	852	1067	1102	1255	1475	1119
Total	1169	1393	1300	1420	1699	1265
Number of grants as a percentage of overall Partner visa program						
IMA	0.8%	0.9%	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%
non IMA	2.3%	2.9%	2.8%	3.0%	3.7%	2.9%
Total	3.1%	3.8%	3.3%	3.4%	4.3%	3.2%