

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0063) PROGRAM – 3.1: Border Management

Senator Cash (L&CA 104) asked:

Senator CASH: Where people's fingerprints have been flagged in the system, in how many cases has this translated into a denial of a visa?

Dr Southern: We would probably have to take the detail of that question on notice, but there may be circumstances where that was part of the decision around a visa refusal. There may have been other issues surrounding their protection claims that played a part.

Answer:

As biometric match information is only one aspect of the visa decision making process, it is not possible to provide a definitive answer to this question. Biometric match information is provided to relevant business areas for decision makers to consider along with all other information relevant to a visa application. In some cases biometric match information may contribute to a refusal decision while in others, decision makers may consider and address issues raised by biometric match information before deciding to grant a visa. Biometric match information may also contribute to visa grant decisions by verifying client identity and other details such as migration history.