

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(166) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. How many students have been identified as being affected by the Uddin decision?
2. How many students have sought to use the Uddin decision?
 - (a) Has DIMIA sought a blanket debt waiver from the Finance Minister for these cases?
 - (b) What are the status of these cases? Has the blanket debt waiver been granted?
 - If so, on what date?
 - If not, why not?
3. For students who have
 - Has this issue been raised?

Answer:

1. As at 31 October 2005, 8,450 students have been identified as being affected by the Uddin decision.
2. As at 14 October 2005, the Department had received 351 inquiries in Australia and from overseas.
 - (a) DIMIA is currently in the process of seeking a blanket debt waiver for students affected by the Uddin decision. In cases where students have already paid their debt for immigration detention costs, act of grace payments are being requested by DIMIA. The Department of Finance and Administration (Finance) Special Claims and Land Policy Branch has given in-principle approval to considering these cases as a bulk debt waiver and act of grace request.
 - (b) Debt waivers require detailed assessment of each case in order to include them in a bulk application. This work is well advanced and the application is expected to be with Finance by 9 December 2005.
3. All affected students will be advised of the outcome, once this matter has been finalised by the delegate at Finance.