

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(35) Output 1.2: Refugee and Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Bartlett asked:

1. How many section 345, 351, 391, 417, 454 and 501J requests have been received in 2004-05?
2. How many section 345, 351, 391, 417, 454 and 501J requests have been considered in 2004-05?
3. On how many occasions has Minister Hardgrave decided to exercise those powers in favour of applicants in 2004-05?
4. On how many occasions has Minister McGauran decided to exercise those powers in favour of applicants in 2004-05?
5. On how many occasions has Minister Cobb decided to exercise those powers in favour of applicants since being sworn in as Minister for Citizenship?
6. On how many occasions has Minister Vanstone decided to exercise those powers in favour of applicants in 2004-05?

Answer:

1. The number of requests made under sections 345, 351, 391, 417, 454 and 501J in 2004-05 was 3797.
2. The number of requests considered under sections 345, 351, 417, 454 and 501J in 2004-05 was 4030.
3. Mr Hardgrave ended his appointment as Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs on 25 October 2004. In the period 1 July to 25 October 2004, Mr Hardgrave did not substitute a more favourable decision in requests under sections 345, 351, 391, 417, 454 or 501J.
4. Mr McGauran exercised his public interest powers in 60 cases in 2004-05.
5. Mr Cobb was appointed as Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs on 6 July 2005. Mr Cobb has exercised his public interest powers in 5 cases in 2005-06 as at 30 September 2005.
6. Senator Vanstone has exercised her public interest powers in 167 cases in 2004-05.