

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

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

Senator Crossin (L&C 68) asked:

Can you tell me how many ministerial discretions are still awaiting action under sections 417, 48B and 501?

Answer:

Department systems do not record s417 and s48B cases separately. These cases are often combined. However, manual records indicate that the department has some 1500 cases – as separate section 417s, section 48Bs and combined section 417/48Bs on hand as at 30 September 2005.

Of these, less than 300 cases have yet to be assessed against the Minister's public interest guidelines.

Some 1200 cases have been assessed against the Minister's guidelines. These cases are at varying stages of processing but DIMIA system reports are not yet available on the handling status of these cases. Finalisation of these cases may be waiting for further information, completion of outstanding checks and clearances, preparation of submissions and schedules for Ministerial consideration or advice from the Minister's office on schedules or submissions.