

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 1 November 2005

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

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

Senator Nettle (L&C Written) asked:

Provide a comparison of Minister Ruddock, Vanstone, McGauran and Cobb's approval and rejection rates for section 417s.

Answer:

It is not possible to make direct comparisons on the section 417 intervention rates between Ministers. The rate of intervention for each Minister will reflect the numbers and complexity of the cases before them, and cannot be quantified in a mathematical way.

In general, Minister Vanstone deals with section 417 intervention cases covering people in detention, while Minister Cobb deals with the cases covering people who are in the community.

In the first quarter of this financial year, some 40 detention cases and some 300 community cases had been dealt with personally by the Ministers including the former Minister, the Hon Peter McGauran.

Minister Vanstone intervened in 36 cases, Minister McGauran 17 cases and Minister Cobb 5 cases in 2005-06 as at 30 September 2005.

Minister McGauran commenced his appointment as Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs on 26 October 2004, and ceased on 3 July 2005. Minister Cobb commenced as Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs on 4 July 2005.