

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 OCTOBER 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(42) Output 1.1: Migration and Visa Policy

Senator Ellison (L&CA 82) asked:

In relation to section 351 ministerial interventions, provide an update to question on notice No. 23 from the May 2008 Estimates hearings.

Senator Ellison (L&CA 52) had asked:

(1) What are the current caseloads of 351 visa categories? I will break it down: in the department's initial processing stage, if that makes sense; in the stage of further processing, if there is one; the cases at the minister's office; unassessed cases; and the total of that.

(2) From 7 December to date, how many have been sent to the minister's office and how many finalised?

Answer:

(1) Progress on ministerial intervention requests under section 351 is as follows:

Date	Unassessed	Initial Processing Stage	Health & Character	Minister's Office	Total
10/6/08	66	273	32	75	446
Update as at 12/12/08	43	348	17	67	475

(2) From 7 December 2007 to 10 June 2008, 302 requests for intervention under section 351 were sent to the Minister's office. Of those, 226 were finalised as at 10 June 2008. The remaining 76 requests have now been finalised. Between 10 June and 12 December 2008, a further 356 requests for intervention under section 351 were sent to the Minister's Office. Of those, 289 were finalised as at 12 December 2008.