

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(33) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash (L&CA 41) asked

- (1) How many applications for tourist visas were made in 2009-10?
- (2) How many were rejected and how many were approved?
- (3) How does this compare with 2007-08 and 2008-09?
- (4) Are there particular posts where the decline is most noticeable (if there is a decline in applications)? Is there a reason the refusal rate is so high (if it is)?

Answer.

In regards to parts (1), (2) and (3) of this question, table 1 provides the applications, grants and refusals for Tourist visas for the period 2007-08 to 2009-10.

Tourist visas 2007-10			
	Applications	Refusals	Grants
2007-08	3 285 216	50 830	3 217 231
2008-09	3 074 900	56 876	3 013 950
2009-10	3 169 058	64 028	3 096 928

Table 1 – Tourist visa application, refusal and grant rates – 2007-10

Note: Tourist visas include the following visa subclasses:

- Tourist (Subclass 676) visa
- Sponsored Family (Subclass 679) visa
- eVisitor (Subclass 651)
- ETA (Subclass 976)

4. There are no particular posts or citizenships that have had a noticeable decline in applications. Fluctuations in Tourist visa applications can be attributed to factors such as the economic circumstances of the source country, the strength of the Australian dollar, the competitiveness of other tourism markets, and global events such as the Global Financial Crisis and pandemics.

Tourist visa refusal rates are low. In 2009-10, the Tourist visa refusal rate was approximately 2 per cent. This rate is calculated as the number of refusals divided by the number of decisions (decisions are made up of grants, refusals and withdrawn applications).