

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS
PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-57

Subject: Pandemic Planning Exercises - Portfolio Participation

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

What was the level of Home Affairs/Border Force participation?

Answer:

Refer to answer QONCV19-56.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-36

Subject: Visa Cancellations

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

1. How many visas have been cancelled since 19 March?
2. How many of these cancellations were based on character grounds?

Answer:

1. Between 19 March 2020 and 10 May 2020, 10,423 visas have been cancelled under the *Migration Act 1958* (the Act).
2. Of these, 112 were cancelled under the character provisions at section 501 of the Act.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-38

Subject: AMEP Expected Enrolments 2019-20

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

What is the expected number of AMEP enrolments for the 2019-20 Financial Year?

Answer:

As at 30 April 2020, the total of AMEP enrolments was 46,093 for the 2019-20 Financial Year. Prior to the Pandemic, 61,612 AMEP enrolments were estimated for the 2019-20 Financial Year.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-39

Subject: AMEP Enrolments 2018-19

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How many AMEP enrolments occurred in 2018-19?

Answer:

A total of 52,430 AMEP enrolments were reported in 2018-19, including 23,066 new enrolments and 29,364 continuing enrolments from previous financial years.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-43

Subject: Voluntary Returns

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How many voluntary returns have occurred since 19 March?

Answer:

From 19 March 2020 to 30 April 2020 there have been 45 voluntary removals from immigration detention.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-44

Subject: Involuntary Returns

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How many involuntary returns have occurred since 19 March 2020?

Answer:

From 19 March 2020 to 30 April 2020 there have been 0 involuntary removals from immigration detention.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-47

Subject: Pending AAT Appeals for Migration Decisions

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How many AAT appeals for migration decisions are pending as at 8 May 2020? How many were pending as at 8 May 2019?

- a. How many AAT appeals were lodged from 19 March 2020 to 8 May 2020?
- b. How many AAT appeals were lodged from 19 March 2019 to 8 May 2019?
- c. How many AAT appeals have been heard from 19 March to 8 May 2020?
- d. How many AAT appeals were heard from 19 March to 8 May 2019?

Answer:

AAT data is a matter for the Attorney General's Portfolio.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS
PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-48

Subject: AAT Expected Hearing Date

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

For AAT appeals lodged on 8 May, what is the date of their expected hearing?

Answer:

AAT data is a matter for the Attorney General's Portfolio.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-32

Subject: Guidelines - ABF Commissioner Exemption Process

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

Please provide the most recent version of the guidelines determining the ABF Commissioner Exemption process?

Answer:

There are two different Commissioner Discretion Exemption processes – Inwards and Outwards.

The latest information in relation to these exemption processes can be found on the Australian Border Force website www.abf.gov.au

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-37

Subject: AMEP Enrolments - 19 March - 8 May 2020

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How many AMEP enrolments have occurred from 19 March 2020 to 8 May 2020?

Answer:

As at 12 May 2020, a total of 15,067 AMEP enrolments have been reported from 19 March 2020 to 8 May 2020.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-50

Subject: Citizenship Trials

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

1. How many online citizenship trials are conducted per day?
2. How many online citizenship trials have been completed to date?

Answer:

1. The number of ceremonies conducted will vary day to day depending on client availability and scheduling. The Department of Home Affairs started delivering 750 online ceremonies per day from 30 April 2020.
2. As at 8 May 2020, 7,969 people had become Australian citizens via online citizenship ceremonies.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-51

Subject: Online Citizenship Ceremony Selection

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How are successful applicants selected to participate in an online citizenship ceremony?

Answer:

The Department of Home Affairs is inviting applicants:

- who had already been scheduled to attend an in-person ceremony that was subsequently cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions; and
- with the longest wait times since being approved for citizenship.

The Department is also giving priority consideration to applicants who seek an urgent citizenship ceremony due to exceptional circumstances (for example, where Australian citizenship is required to secure employment).

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-52

Subject: Online Citizenship Ceremonies - Department Capacity

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

When will the department expand to their full capacity of 750 per day?

Answer:

The Department of Home Affairs began delivering 750 online ceremonies per day on 30 April 2020. The number of ceremonies conducted will vary day to day depending on client availability and scheduling.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS
PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-75

Subject: AMEP - Hours of tuition - 19 March 2019 - 8 May 2019

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How many hours of tuition occurred from 19 March 2019 to 8 May 2019?
How many hours per working day is this?

Answer:

A total of 1,020,812 payable tuition hours were reported for period of 19 March 2019 to 8 May 2019.

This is approximately 27,590 tuition hours per working day for a total of 37 business days from 19 March 2019 to 8 May 2019.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS
PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-74

Subject: NSW Police Investigation

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller has said that he wishes to make the findings of the Strike Force Bast investigation into the Ruby Princess available to public if he is permitted. Will the Department make a commitment now that Ministers and officers will cooperate fully with the investigation into the Ruby Princess, and will not prevent attempt to prevent the findings of the NSW Police inquiry from being made public?

Answer:

The Department proposes to cooperate with the NSW Police Inquiry. Whether any findings of the investigation are made public is a matter for the NSW authorities.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-33

Subject: Permanent Visas Granted

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How many permanent visas have been granted by the Department of Home Affairs since 19 March?

- a. Skilled visas
- b. Family visas
- c. Humanitarian visas
- d. For each category, what proportion of visas were granted to people in Australia?

Answer:

Permanent visas granted 20 March 2019 to 8 May 2020

By stream and pathway – with proportion granted to persons in Australia (based on client location at time of application)

Source: Department of Home Affairs, 2020.

| Stream | Visa Pathway | Total visas granted # | % granted to applicants in Australia |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Skilled | Permanent* | 5,493 | 95% |
| | First Stage (Provisional)** | 1,351 | 86% |
| Skilled Total | | 6,844 | 93% |
| Family (including Child) | Permanent* | 8,101 | 77% |
| | First Stage (Provisional)** | 3,732 | 89% |
| Family Total | | 11,833 | 81% |

Includes primary and secondary applicants.

* Includes all permanent subclasses. Permanent includes Direct and Second Stage Skilled and Family visa grants. Not all visas granted count to the Migration Program outcome. With some exceptions, only First Stage and Direct visa grants count towards the Migration Program.

** First-stage (provisional) includes temporary partner, temporary contributory parent and provisional skill visa subclasses.

Permanent Humanitarian visas granted 20 March 2020 to 30 April 2020

With proportion granted to persons in Australia

Source: Department of Home Affairs, 2020.

| Stream | Total visas granted | % granted to applicants in |
|--------|---------------------|----------------------------|
|--------|---------------------|----------------------------|

| | | Australia |
|---------------------|-----|------------------|
| Humanitarian | 167 | 100% |

Note: Most recent data available.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-34

Subject: Permanent Visas Granted - year to date

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How many permanent visas have been granted in the year to date for 2019-20, by skilled, family, and humanitarian stream? What proportion of these visas were granted to people in Australia?

Answer:

Permanent visas granted 1 July 2019 to 8 May 2020

By stream and pathway – with proportion granted to persons in Australia (based on client location at time of application)

Source: Department of Home Affairs, 2020.

| Stream | Visa Pathway | Total visas granted # | % granted to applicants in Australia |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Skilled | Permanent* | 77,802 | 76% |
| | First Stage (Provisional)** | 17,622 | 38% |
| Skilled Total | | 95,424 | 69% |
| Family (including Child) | Permanent* | 62,857 | 63% |
| | First Stage (Provisional)** | 35,289 | 61% |
| Family Total | | 98,146 | 63% |

Includes primary and secondary applicants.

* Includes all permanent subclasses. Permanent includes Direct and Second Stage Skilled and Family visa grants. Not all visas granted count to the Migration Program outcome. With some exceptions, only First Stage and Direct visa grants count towards the Migration Program.

** First-stage (provisional) includes temporary partner, temporary contributory parent and provisional skill visa subclasses.

Permanent Humanitarian visas granted 1 July 2019 – 30 April 2020*

| Stream | Total visas granted | Proportion granted to applicants in Australia |
|--------------|---------------------|---|
| Humanitarian | 12,760 | 10% |

* Most recent data available

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-40

Subject: AMEP - Hours of Tuition - 19 March to 8 May

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How many hours of tuition have occurred from 19 March 2020 to 8 May 2020? How many hours per working day is this?

Answer:

As at 12 May 2020, a total of 333,599 payable tuition hours have been reported for the period of 19 March 2020 to 8 May 2020. Not all the hours delivered during the period have been reported at this reporting date.

This is approximately 9,016 tuition hours per working day for a total of 37 business days from 19 March 2020 to 8 May 2020.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-49

Subject: Citizenship Applications - to be processed

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How many people are currently waiting for their citizenship application to be processed? (Please provide a breakdown by the number of people waiting at each stage: i.e. waiting for interview, waiting for test, waiting for ceremony)

Answer:

As at 8 May 2020, there were:

- 120,322 applications (citizenship by conferral) awaiting a decision.
 - Of these, approximately 103,000 applications were awaiting a citizenship test.
- 92,067 people whose applications had been approved were awaiting a citizenship ceremony.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-54

Subject: Online Citizenship Ceremonies - Federal MP Involvement

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

What involvement will the local Federal MP have in the process?

Answer:

The Hon. Alan Tudge MP, Acting Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs, has written to all Members of Parliament inviting their participation in online citizenship ceremonies, as Presiding Officers.

The National Cabinet has outlined a three-step plan to gradually remove baseline restrictions and make Australia COVID-safe. As restrictions ease on a jurisdiction by jurisdiction basis, providing for a return to in-person ceremonies, local Federal MPs will be invited to attend citizenship ceremonies consistent with the protocols set out in the Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Code.

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-55

Subject: Online Technology for Testing and Interview

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

Will you extend the online technology for testing and interviews?

Answer:

Sitting the Australian citizenship test is a legal requirement. To ensure the highest standards of integrity, tests are invigilated in secure departmental facilities by trained departmental staff. This is essential to maintain the integrity of the test. Requests for urgent tests will be considered in order to accommodate clients who have compelling or compassionate issues. As soon as restrictions are lifted testing and interviews will recommence.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-35

Subject: Temporary Visas Granted

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

How many temporary visas have been granted by the Department of Home Affairs since 19 March?

- a. Tourist visas
- b. Student visas
- c. Work visas
- d. Family visas
- e. Subclass 408 visa
- f. All streams
- g. COVID-stream
- h. For each category, what proportion of visas were granted to people in Australia?

Answer:

From 20 March to 8 May 2020, the Department of Home Affairs granted:

- a. 7,589 Visitor visas to tourists, of which 89.4 per cent were granted to people in Australia.
- b. 21,881 Student visas, of which 97.3 per cent were granted to people in Australia.
- c. 13,812 temporary work visas*, of which 97.7 per cent were granted to people in Australia.
- d. 54 temporary family visas**, of which 33.3 per cent were granted to people in Australia.
- e, f, g. 282 Subclass 408 visas in all streams, of which 84.4 per cent were granted to people in Australia. Of these, 18 were in the COVID-19 pandemic event visa - Australian Government Endorsed Event stream, all of which were granted to people in Australia.

* Temporary work visas comprise Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) (subclass 400), Temporary Work (International Relations) (subclass 403), Investor Retirement (subclass 405), Training (subclass 407), Temporary Activity (subclass 408), Retirement (subclass 410), New Zealand Citizen Family Relationship (Temporary) (subclass 461), Temporary Graduate (subclass 485), Sponsored Parent (Temporary) (subclass 870), Diplomatic (subclass 995), Temporary Work (Skilled) (subclass 457), Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482).

** Comprises Sponsored Parent Temporary Visa (subclass 870) and New Zealand Citizen Family Relationship Visa (subclass 461).

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-53

Subject: Online Citizenship Ceremonies - Council Involvement

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

What involvement will councils have in the process?

Answer:

The Department will support councils to deliver online citizenship ceremonies where there is a need to do so.

The National Cabinet has outlined a 3 step plan to gradually remove base line restrictions and make Australia Covid Safe.

As restrictions ease on a jurisdiction by jurisdiction basis providing for return to in person ceremonies the Department will work with councils to support a recommencement of face to face citizenship ceremonies.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY WRITTEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

QoN Number: CV19-30

Subject: Cruise Ship Ban - Secretary recommendations

Asked by: Kristina Keneally

Question:

1. Please outline how Minister Hunt enacted Secretary Pezzullo's recommendations to include "requirements and directions" that make the exemption in 5(b) subject to conditions which "would allow vessels with suspected COVID-19 cases" to be subject to "enhanced controls"?
2. Was Secretary Pezzullo satisfied with the way in which Minister Hunt acted on his recommendations as outlined in question 4?
3. Did Secretary Pezzullo raise any concerns with Minister Dutton about the way in which his recommendations were enacted as outlined in question 1?

Answer:

1. Secretary Pezzullo's advice was used by Minister Hunt in exercising his statutory functions under s477(1) of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.
2. The Minister acted on the advice provided by senior officials, including Secretary Pezzullo. It would not be appropriate for an official to comment on the manner in which a Minister has performed his or her duties. For the avoidance of doubt, the Secretary is honoured to have been asked to perform his duties in support of the government of the day, and specifically to have been asked to support and advise Ministers, including Minister Hunt, during these difficult days.
3. No.