

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 March 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE17/255) - Reasons for rejecting SIVs - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA 41) asked:

Senator PRATT: That makes sense. In 2014-15 there were nearly 1,400 applications for SIVs from Chinese nationals, but only 532 were granted. What were the main reasons visa applicants were rejected?

Ms Dacey: I will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

In the 2014-15 Programme Year, 1455 SIV applications were received in Hong Kong. In that same period, a total of 870 applications were finalised with a non-grant rate of 35.7 per cent which includes both refusals and withdrawal of applications. Applications finalised includes those received prior to the 2014-15 programme year.

The main reasons for the non-grant:

- 59 per cent were due to the inability to provide adequate evidence on source of funds, i.e. the assets nominated to make the complying investment did not meet the requirement of being lawfully acquired and unencumbered.
- 21 per cent were due to applicants' change of plan or difficulties with liquidation of assets or with the international transfer of funds, many of which were only withdrawn after a formal invitation for investment had been made.
- 9 per cent were due to applicants having provided bogus documents or false claims.
- 9 per cent were due to adverse reporting found in public domain of applicants' involvement in unacceptable business and investment activities e.g. bribery, insider trading, debt defraud, trading in counterfeit products etc.
- 2 per cent were due to health and/or character issues.