

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/113) PROGRAMME – 1.3: Migration, Border Management and Citizenship

Senator Carr (L&CA 83-84) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: What is the level of compliance?

Mr Fleming: I do not think I have those statistics with me, but we can take that on notice and give you a range of compliance statistics.

Senator KIM CARR: What are the main reasons for noncompliance?

Mr Fleming: In terms of numerically which are the highest, that will have to be part of the answer on notice, but it will be things like overstaying the visa, having visas cancelled et cetera.

Answer:

Overall compliance with Australia's immigration system is very high. In 2012-13, over 99 per cent of more than 5 million temporary arrivals complied with the requirement to depart Australia before their visa expired. In recent years, the rate of student visa compliance has remained consistent with the overall compliance rate.

The main reasons for student visa holders becoming non-compliant include:

- overstaying their visa, and
- breach of immigration law and/or a visa condition.

From 1 July 2013 to 31 March 2014, 218 781 student visas were granted. In the same period:

- about 1770 people stayed in Australia for more than 14 days after their student visa expired, and
- about 6245 student visa holders had their visa cancelled.

Some of the main reasons why students' visas are cancelled include:

- no longer satisfying the visa criteria that they had initially met for the grant of their visa,
- not meeting attendance or course progress requirements, and
- breaching work conditions.