

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 22 May 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE17/259) - Distinguished talent visa statistics - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

When was the Distinguished Talent Visa introduced? How many visas have been issued under this program?

Please list the number of visa's issued each year for the past five years on record?

How many were issued per year for "a profession"?

How many were issued per year in "the arts"?

How many were issued per year in "sport"?

How many were issued per year in "research or academia"?

How many applications for DTVs has the Department received and rejected over the past five years?

Has the Department considered a lifting the number of DTVs granted? If so, when? Has the Minister's office been involved in these discussions?

Answer:

When was the Distinguished Talent Visa introduced?

The Distinguished Talent visa was originally introduced on 1 September 1994 as the Distinguished Talent-Australian Support (Subclass 124) visa. On 1 November 1999, the Migration Regulations 1994 were modified to incorporate the Distinguished Talent visa (subclass 858) for onshore applicants and the program was expanded to include applicants who had assisted Australia in security matters.

How many visas have been issued under this program?

From 1 September 1994 to 31 May 2017 a total of 3594 visas have been issued, in both visa classes, for both primary and dependent applicants.

Please list the number of visas issued each year for the past five years on record? How many applications for DTVs has the Department received and rejected over the past five years?

The below table relates to both primary and secondary applicants for both the Distinguished Talent (Subclass 124) visa and the Distinguished Talent visa (subclass 858).

Programme Year	2012-2013	2013 -2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017-31 May 2017
Applications Lodged	287	307	334	298	237
Finalisations:					
Grants	206	197	206	202	179
Refusals	12	112	86	116	18

The above data refers to primary and secondary applicants.

How many were issued per year for “a profession”?

How many were issued per year in “the arts”?

How many were issued per year in “sport”?

How many were issued per year in “research or academia”?

What are the types of professions that the Distinguished Talent visa went to?

The data above is not available on Departmental systems and as such providing this level of detail would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

Has the Department considered a lifting the number of DTVs granted? If so, when? Has the Minister’s office been involved in these discussions?

Australia’s permanent migration programme is set on an annual basis as part of the Budget process. When setting the size and composition of the programme, a wide range of factors are considered including stakeholder views, immediate and forecast long-term social and economic trends as well as the family reunion needs of Australians. Planning levels are reviewed throughout the programme year to ensure they remain responsive to the economic environment. Australia’s 2017-18 permanent Migration Programme planning levels were set at 190,000 places with 200 places allocated to Distinguished Talent visas.