

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### (SE14/444) PROGRAMME 1.1 – Visa and Migration

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

- (a) How many people enter the country with a tourist or visitor visa annually? (use last year's figures or ask for whatever is the most up to date)
- (b) Have these figures changed since February estimates?
- (c) What is the level of compliance for people on these visas?
- (d) What are the main reasons for non-compliance?
- (e) How does the Department monitor these visas to ensure compliance?
- (f) Is it a random sample size?
- (g) If so, how big is the sample?
- (h) If not, what other methodologies does the Department employ?
- (i) Does the department operate on "tip offs"?
- (j) What are the remedies for this and how are they applied?
- (k) How many people (since 7 September 2013) have entered Australia on a visitor/tourist visa and sought asylum?

Answers:

- (a) Arrivals for tourists and visitors (visa subclasses include: 456, 459, 600, 601, 651, 676, 679, 956, 976 and 977) were as follows:

2014-15 (to 30 September 2014)	*1 008 794
2013-14	4 308 765
2012-13	3 957 520 ( <i>no change from last year</i> )
2011-12	3 728 355 ( <i>no change from last year</i> )
2010-11	3 713 638 ( <i>no change from last year</i> )

Source: Custom extract from Overseas Arrivals and Departures (OAD) data. High level OAD data is also published monthly by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in [Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia ABS Cat No. 3401.0](#).

- (b) Yes. Data for years to 2012-13 have not been revised. However, data is now available for the financial year 2013-14 and 2014-15 (to September 2014).
- (c) Overall compliance with Australia's immigration requirements is very high. The vast majority of people comply with Australia's migration laws. In 2013-14, more than 99 per cent of approximately 5 and a half million temporary entrants complied with the requirement to maintain their lawful immigration status, or to depart Australia voluntarily prior to their visas expiring.

- (d) The key circumstances of non-compliance are that individuals overstay their visas or breach visa conditions, such as work restrictions.
- (e) – (j) The department works in partnership with other Australian Government and state and territory government agencies to identify instances of non-compliance with immigration law and visa conditions, through established data matching or other information sharing arrangements. This includes working closely with Centrelink and local employment bodies to identify people who may not be entitled to remain in Australia. Internally, the department also performs ongoing interrogation of individual systems records, in order to refer emerging instances of genuine overstayers to the compliance service delivery network on a weekly basis. Compliance field activity is planned and executed in close consultation with law enforcement agencies where illegal activity may be involved.

Compliance activities are aimed at locating unlawful non-citizens and non-citizens working in breach of visa conditions. Such activities are prioritised according to risk, including disengaged non-citizens and non-citizens with histories of repeated non-compliance.

DIBP maintains a Dob-in-Service whereby the public can report cases of potential immigration malpractice or visa fraud. All allegations are assessed and where warranted are referred to the relevant area of the Department for appropriate risk treatment.

All allegations are triaged and referred in line with Standard Operating Procedures and a detailed Fraud Assessment Referral Matrix. Clearly articulated referral processes ensure allegations are referred to risk owners and risk treatment owners. This may include external referrals to other government agencies as required.

The risk treatment that is applied will depend on the nature of the allegation, the seriousness of the matter, or the risk it presents. Example of risk treatment options may include visa refusal, visa cancellation, financial penalties, and/or prosecution.

- (k) During the period 7 September 2013 to 27 November 2014, 5454 applications were made for protection by those who arrived on visitor/tourist visas (noting that some of these applicants would have arrived in Australia before 7 September 2013, but applied for protection after that date).