

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 19 October 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE15/093) - Visitor Visa - Sponsored Family Stream - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Rhiannon, Lee (L&CA) written:

In relation to the Visitor Visa – Sponsored Family stream:

a. How many applications for visas to visit Australia from Pakistani nationals under the Visitor Visa – Sponsored Family stream (form 1418) were made in the following years:

- i. 2010
- ii. 2011
- iii. 2012
- iv. 2013
- v. 2014

b. How many applications were approved in each of those years?

- i. Please provide by sex (male/female) of applicant.
- ii. Please provide by relationship status of applicant.

c. How many applications were rejected in each of those years?

- i. Please provide by sex (male/female) of applicant.
- ii. Please provide by relationship status of applicant.

d. What are the common reasons for rejection of Visitor Visa – Sponsored Family visa applications for Pakistani nationals?

Answer:

a. Number of Visitor visa applications lodged in the Sponsored Family stream where the citizenship country was Pakistan

Stream	Calendar Year	Lodged
Sponsored Family	2010	na
	2011	na
	2012	na
	2013	815
	2014	1,300

Note 1: This stream came into effect on 23 March 2013

b.

- i) Number of Visitor visa applications granted in the Sponsored Family stream where the citizenship country was Pakistan

Stream	Calendar Year	Female	Male	Total
Sponsored Family	2010	na	na	na
	2011	na	na	na
	2012	na	na	na
	2013	300	128	428
	2014	520	269	789

Note 1: This stream came into effect on 23 March 2013

- ii) Number of Visitor visa applications granted in the Sponsored Family stream where the citizenship country was Pakistan by marital status

Marital Status	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Divorced	na	na	na	< 10	< 10
Engaged	na	na	na	0	< 10
Defacto Partner	na	na	na	0	< 10
Married	na	na	na	226	417
Never Married / Defacto	na	na	na	40	97
Separated	na	na	na	< 10	< 10
Widowed	na	na	na	54	96
Not Recorded	na	na	na	99	171
Total	na	na	na	428	789

Note 1: This stream came into effect on 23 March 2013

c.

- i) Number of Visitor visa applications refused in the Sponsored Family stream where the citizenship country was Pakistan

Stream	Calendar Year	Female	Male	Total
Sponsored Family	2010	na	na	na
	2011	na	na	na
	2012	na	na	na
	2013	154	120	274
	2014	256	177	433

Note 1: This stream came into effect on 23 March 2013

- ii) Marital status for visa applications refused is not recorded in departmental systems for reporting.

- d. All applicants must satisfy the relevant criteria set out in Australian migration law. The legal criteria for the grant of a Visitor visa require, among other factors, that applicants meet Australia's health and character requirements, have adequate funds for support for the period of the visit and intend a genuine temporary stay in Australia.

While we do not keep statistics on reasons for refusal of applications, in practice the most common reason for refusal is that the applicant has failed to satisfy the decision maker that they intend a genuine temporary stay in Australia. This criterion is set out in the Migration Regulations at 600.211, as follows:

[600.211] The applicant genuinely intends to stay temporarily in Australia for the purpose for which the visa is granted, having regard to:

- (a) whether the applicant has complied substantially with the conditions to which the last substantive visa, or any subsequent bridging visa, held by the applicant was subject; and
- (b) whether the applicant intends to comply with the conditions to which the Subclass 600 visa would be subject; and
- (c) any other relevant matter.

When deciding whether an applicant intends a genuine temporary stay in Australia, the decision maker must take into account relevant considerations such as the applicant's personal circumstances, incentive to return home, financial situation and ability to support themselves while in Australia. The likelihood of an applicant overstaying or seeking to remain in Australia also must be assessed. While offers of support given by friends or family in Australia are given due consideration by decision makers, this in itself is not sufficient evidence that an applicant intends a genuine temporary stay.