

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 9 FEBRUARY 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### (131) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Humphries asked:

- a) How many times has the Minister used his powers under section 501 to cancel or refuse a visa on character grounds?
- b) How many times have departmental officers used this power?
- c) How does this compare with the last three years?

*Answer:*

- a) In the period from 1 July 2009 to 14 May 2010, the Minister did not use his power to cancel or refuse a visa under section 501 of the *Migration Act 1958* (the Act).
- b) In the period from 1 July 2009 to 14 May 2010, the Minister's delegates cancelled 46 visas and refused 138 visa applications under section 501 of the Act.
- c) In the preceding three financial years, the Minister and the Ministers' delegates exercised the cancellation and refusal power under section 501 of the Act as follows.

	Financial Year		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Number of visas cancelled by the Minister	46	36	0
Number of visas cancelled by Ministers' delegates	70	67	86
Number of visas refused by the Minister	0	1	1
Number of visas refused by Ministers' delegates	183	28	123