

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 9 FEBRUARY 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### (134) Program 3.1: Border Management

Senator Humphries asked:

- (1) How many people are there currently on Bridging Visa Es – how does that compare to each of the past five years?
- (2) How many people hold other types of Bridging visas
- (3) How many people on Bridging visas are awaiting an outcome of a request for the Minister's intervention.
- (4) How many people have been on Bridging Visas for more than one year? More than two years? More than five years? By type of Bridging Visa?
- (5) How many people on Bridging Visas have access to work rights and Medicare? By type of Bridging Visa? How does this compare to each of the past five years?

*Answer:*

- (1) The number of people Bridging E visa in effect at any given time varies. In December 2009, there were around 8 000 people holding a Bridging E visa. This compares to around:
  - a. 6 000 in December 2008;
  - b. 6 000 in December 2007; and
  - c. 7 000 in December 2006.

Information prior to December 2006 is not readily available from departmental systems.

- (2) The number of people with a Bridging visa in effect (excluding Bridging E visas) varies. Where a temporary entrant in Australia applies for another substantive visa they will generally be granted a Bridging visa which will enable them to remain lawful if their previous visa expires before their substantive visa application is resolved. In December 2009 there were around 71 200 people holding a Bridging visa other than a Bridging E visa. This compares to around
  - a. 55 500 in December 2008
  - b. 46 300 in December 2007
  - c. 39 700 in December 2006

Information prior to December 2006 is not readily available from departmental systems.

- (3) The number of people holding a Bridging visa awaiting the outcome of a request for the Minister to intervene in December 2009 was around 1 700. This compares to around:
- a. 1 900 in December 2008
  - b. 1 700 in December 2007
  - c. 2 600 in December 2006
- (4) In December 2009, the period of time people have held a Bridging visa was around:

<b>BRIDGING VISA TYPE</b>	<b>1-2 YEARS</b>	<b>2-5 YEARS</b>	<b>5+ YEARS</b>
Bridging A (010)	9 770	10 070	4 690
Bridging B (020)	5 390	6 010	3 360
Bridging C (030)	370	450	1 290
Bridging D (040, 041 & 042)	Less than 10	0	Less than 10
Bridging E (050 & 051)	1 250	1 630	2 520
Bridging R (070)	Less than 10	10	Less than 10

- (5) Access to health benefits and services is determined by Medicare. Generally, people who reside in Australia and have applied for a permanent visa (excluding an application for a parent visa) and have been granted permission to work, may be eligible for assistance through Medicare.

Information is not readily available from departmental systems to establish how many clients on Bridging visas have access to Medicare.

Of the 79 200 people holding a Bridging visa in December 2009, around 13 700 were not entitled to work due to their Bridging visa having a 'no work' condition or their bridging visa being of a type that precludes them from working. This compares to around

- a. 14 800 in December 2008
- b. 15 800 in December 2007
- c. 16 000 in December 2006

Information prior to December 2006 is not readily available from departmental systems.