

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(167) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash asked:

(1) To date, how many unlawful non citizens have been located as a result of compliance activities?

(2) To date, how many have been removed?

(3) How does this compare with activity in each of the last three financial years?

Answer:

(1) From 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2010, 6688 unlawful non-citizens and people in breach of their visa conditions were located as a result of onshore compliance activities, including those who voluntarily approached the Department seeking to resolve their immigration status.

(2) From 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2010, there were 4790 compliance related departures from Australia, of which 593 onshore compliance clients were removed from detention.

(3) The number of unlawful non-citizens and people in breach of their visa conditions located as a result of onshore compliance activities, including those who voluntarily approached the Department seeking to resolve their immigration status in the previous three financial years, are as follows:

- 10 925 in 2007-08;
- 12 230 in 2008-09; and
- 14 169 in 2009-10.

As a result of updates to departmental systems, the figures provided above differ from those previously provided in the 2007-08 and 2008-09 annual reports which were 10 722 and 11 428 respectively.

The overall increase in locations reflects an increase in voluntary locations. These are generally clients who present to our compliance counters. This increase reflects an increased level of trust clients and community stakeholders have with the department, due, in particular, to the introduction of strategies to more effectively manage the status resolution of clients while they remain in the community.

The numbers of onshore compliance clients removed from detention in the previous three financial years are as follows:

- 1547 in 2007-08;
- 1150 in 2008-09; and
- 1077 In 2009-10.

The above figures reflect increased efforts in recent years to resolve onshore compliance cases through departure from the community without unnecessary recourse to the use of immigration detention.

The numbers of compliance related departures from Australia in the previous three financial years are as follows:

- 8404 in 2007-08;
- 6818 in 2008-09; and
- 8825 In 2009-10.