

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(174) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash (L&C 69-70) asked:

When was the last time if ever, information was provided on the number of non-Australian citizens convicted of a serious crime and served more than 12 months in prison.

Answer:

This question was answered in Question Taken on Notice (260) from October 2010 Senate Estimates. The following response was provided.

(1) The Department does not hold statistics on prison releases of non-Australian citizens released into the community after serving sentences of 12 months or more. The Department considers the preparation of an answer to the question would involve significant diversion of departmental resources in the seeking of information from each state/territory correctional authority and, in the circumstances, does not consider that the additional work can be justified.

Currently the Department receives notifications from prisons regarding non-citizens in criminal detention. For those prisoners who are potentially liable for visa cancellation under s501, protocols are in place which aim to have consideration of cancellation, including any time for possible appeals, finalised before the prisoner is released from prison.

The Department's aim is that where the person's visa is cancelled under s501, arrangements will already be in place to enable their departure from Australia as soon as they are released from prison.

(2) During the 2009-2010 program year the Department cancelled 58 client visas. As of 4 November 2010, 28 of those clients have been removed from Australia.