

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(90) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

When a 410 visa holder applies for a 103 or 804 parent visa, does their status remain as a 410 visa holder, and are they still included in the overall 410 visa numbers? If not, what does their status become?

Answer:

When a Retirement (Subclass 410) visa holder applies for another visa, such as the Subclass 103 or 804 parent visas, it does not impact their status as a Subclass 410 visa holder until such time as they are granted the other visa.

It should, however, be noted that, if the application for another visa is lodged onshore the Subclass 410 visa holder will, as a matter of course, be granted a bridging visa. This visa will remain 'sitting behind' the Subclass 410 visa while it is current and will come into effect when the Subclass 410 visa ceases.

A bridging visa enables the person to remain onshore lawfully (until processing of their application is finalised) without renewing their Subclass 410 visa if they wish. Only those people who continue to hold a valid Subclass 410 visa are included in the statistics.