

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0190) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

I refer to the introduction of the new genuine temporary entrant requirement for all student visa applicants which commenced on 5 November 2011. a. How many students have applied for a visa since this date? b. How many student visas have been refused for failing to meet the GTE requirement? c. Upon what basis were these visas refused?

Answer:

- a) Between 5 November 2011 and 31 January 2012, 66 650* Student visa applications were lodged.
- b) Less than two per cent* of GTE assessments made between 5 November 2011 and 31 January 2012 did not meet the requirement.
- c) The GTE requirement enables decision makers to assess whether the applicant intends a genuine temporary visit to Australia for the purpose of study. Direction No 53, under section 499 of the Migration Act 1958, *Assessing the Genuine Temporary Entrant Criterion for Student Visa Applications*, provides guidance to decision makers on the factors that should be considered in weighing up the applicant's individual circumstances including:
 - the applicant's immigration history;
 - the intentions of a parent, legal guardian or spouse of a minor applicant; and
 - any other relevant matter to determine whether the applicant genuinely intends to stay in Australia temporarily.

Assessing the GTE requirement involves examining an applicant's individual circumstances as a whole. Applicants who do not meet the GTE requirement generally do not meet the requirement because of a combination of individual factors.

* These figures are provisional and are subject to variation.