

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0250) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Cash asked:

In answer to question 232 (BE11/0232 or SE11/0209), the department claimed it has previously used the cancellation provisions of the Act to cancel the visas of those protection visa holders who have travelled back to their country from which they claimed persecution. How many visas have been cancelled?

Answer:

The previous response to a question on this issue (SE11/0209) that has already been tabled contained a data reporting error.

Departmental records indicate that 60 subclass 866 Protection visas were cancelled between July 1995 and January 2012 under various provisions of the *Migration Act 1958*.

Departmental systems indicate that a number of these cancellations occurred under section 128 of the Migration Act which enables cancellation if a non-citizen is outside Australia, but do not enable reporting on the grounds or where the holder was at the time of cancellation.