

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/232) PROGRAMME – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

- (a) What is the reason behind the reduction in places available under the Other Family category from 1 285 in 2012-13 financial year to 585 in the 2013-14 financial year?
- (b) Have the places that have been cut been reallocated to another family stream? If not, why? If so, where have they been reallocated and for what reasons?
- (c) How many applications are currently pending in the queue?
- (d) How many applications did the Department receive in the previous/current financial year?
- (e) How many of these applications were successful (i.e. what is the conversion rate)?

Answer:

- (a) The then policy was to use the places to ease the pipeline pressures for other categories of the Family Stream of the Migration Programme, particularly Partner visas.
- (b) Yes. As part of reprioritisation of places within the Family Stream, 700 places from the Other Family category were reallocated to other categories. The majority of places (500 out of 700) were allocated to the Partner category, and the remainder to the Parent categories.
- (c) As at 28 February 2014, there were 7 497 Other Family applications on hand awaiting finalisation.
- (d) The number of Other Family applications lodged in the 2012-13 Programme year (as at 30 June 2013) was 3 293. The number of Other Family applications lodged in 2013-14 Programme Year to 28 February 2014 was 1 747.
- (e) The grant rate for Other Family applications finalised in the 2012-13 Programme year to 30 June 2013 was 28 per cent. The grant rate for Other Family applications finalised in 2013-14 Programme year to 28 February 2014 was 25 per cent.