

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27 MAY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(62) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Humphries (L&C 7) asked:

What is the current overstay rate of visitors for those granted visas at the 'high risk' posts overseas and how does the rate compare with the rate over the last three years?

Answer:

The majority of the Department's visa processing occurs onshore, not at posts overseas. This processing applies case analysis, including analysis of refused applications, and in-country intelligence to assess the risk of potential visitors overstaying their visa prior to making visa decisions.

While all applications are considered carefully, those considered at a higher risk of non-compliance are given greater scrutiny. This scrutiny may include referral of the application to the appropriate post for integrity checks to be conducted in-country.

Overall, the level of compliance for posts that may undertake integrity checks such as Cairo and Nairobi, is in line with the general overstayer rate of less than one per cent. This general rate has remained at less than one per cent over the last three years.