

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0245) Program 3.1: Border Management

Senator Cash asked:

Have there been any prosecutions of people who have lied about their age or have there been any visas that have been cancelled for people who have lied about their age?

Answer:

In the 2010–11 financial year, no persons were prosecuted in relation to lying about their age.

In the 2010–11 financial year, no visas were cancelled as a result of an applicant lying about their age.

It should be noted that Public Interest Criteria (PIC) 4020 was created to assist in the refusal of fraudulent applications presented to the department. This PIC will be progressively applied to visa classes.

The application of this PIC enables the Minister (or his or her delegate) to refuse to grant a visa in circumstances where the applicant has provided false, misleading or incorrect information or bogus documentation in the current application, and in connection to a visa that the applicant held in the period of 12 months before the application was made.

It will be some time before meaningful statistics in relation to this PIC can be produced.