

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0248) Program 3.1: Border Management

Senator Cash asked:

Has anyone been prosecuted for presenting false or altered documents or fraudulent documents?

Answer:

In the 2010–11 financial year, three persons were successfully prosecuted and convicted in relation to the provision of false or altered documents under section 234 of the *Migration Act 1958*.

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.