

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21- 22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0184) Program 3.1: Border Management

Senator Cash (L&CA 62) asked:

How many times has fraud taken place in regard to a partner visa since August 2008? How many times has the department been notified of potential fraud in relation to a partner visa? Provide information on how many partner visas have been cancelled?

Answer:

Although information relating to fraud or potential fraud in a Partner visa applications is kept on file and recorded electronically on Departmental systems, it is not recorded in such a way that allows the systems to report on the number of cases which have involved, or were suspected to have involved, fraud.

As the table below shows, 1319 Partner visas were cancelled between 1 July 2008 and 31 May 2012. These include temporary and permanent Partner visas as well as Prospective Marriage visas.

While the table shows the cancellation power used, it is not possible to report on the reasons that led to the cancellation in each of these cases. As such, it is not possible to report on the number of visas that were cancelled because of fraud.

Partner visa cancellations between 1/07/2008 and 31/05/2012

Cancellation Power	2008/2009	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012 to 31/05/12
Section 109: Incorrect Information	17	11	3	8
Section 116: General Power	46	40	40	30
Section 128: Holder Outside Australia	226	235	247	309
Section 140: Consequential Cancellation	15	13	18	36
Section 501: Character or Related Grounds	3	6	6	10
Total	307	305	314	393