

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing: 22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0341) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Cash (L&CA 23) asked:

In relation to the Minister's exercise of discretion under s195A of the Migration Act, how many times and for what types of visas did the Minister exercise this discretion from December 2011 to date? Had any of those people who received a visa been subject to an adverse security assessment or previously received an adverse security assessment?

Answer:

For the period 1 December 2011 to 22 May 2012, the Minister has exercised his s195A power on 63 occasions, granting visas to 1481 individuals.

The Minister chose to grant the following types of visas under s195A of the Act:

- Bridging visa E (subclass 050)
- Humanitarian Stay (Temporary) visa (subclass 449)
- Bridging visa E (subclass 051)
- Removal Pending Bridging visa (subclass 070)
- Former Resident (subclass 151) visa
- Global Special Humanitarian (subclass 202) visa
- Skilled Graduate (subclass 485) visa
- Tourist (subclass 676) visa
- Medical Treatment (subclass 685) visa
- Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 856) visa

None of the people who were granted a visa by the Minister under s195A of the Act were subject to an adverse security assessment or had previously received an adverse security assessment.