

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(34) Output 1.1 Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Carr (L&CA 45) asked:

So what are the figures from Victoria? In the last year, how many applications for exemptions to the minimum went through regional certifying bodies?

How many were actually granted? I want to know the figure. It has been put to me that there were over 2,000 but only a very few went through the regional certifying bodies.

Answer:

DIMA does not maintain data on the number of employer nominations submitted to Regional Certifying Bodies (RCBs) for regional exemptions, as not all nominations are approved or result in a sponsorship or visa application lodged with the department.

The department's system records indicate 120 primary visa grants (rounded to the nearest 10) in 2005-06 were certified by RCBs for Victoria in relation to the minimum salary level or skill requirements.