

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 OCTOBER 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(2) Output : Internal Product

Senator Barnett (L&CA 6) asked:

With respect to those four, why were they barred? What were the circumstances?

Answer:

Generally, MARA only has jurisdiction to investigate complaints against registered migration agents. However, MARA is also able to investigate complaints against former registered agents providing that the complaint is made within 12 months of the former agent's registration ceasing. In such a case, if the complaint is made out then MARA can "bar" the former agent from being re-registered for a period of up to five years.

The four decisions made were:

Roy Chacko - Mr Chacko was barred in respect of two complaints before MARA. The complaints were received on 25 January 2007 and the decision to bar Mr Chacko was made on 12 November 2007. Mr Chacko was barred for five years as a result of submitting fabricated documents to the DIAC.

Rosaline Sassine - MARA received a complaint against Ms Sassine on 30 January 2007. She was barred on 6 August 2007. Ms Sassine was barred for a period of five years for agreeing to lodge an application on behalf of her client, failing to do so and then misleading her client.

Khairunnisha Ahmed - MARA received two complaints against Ms Ahmed, on 9 and 29 October 2007. She was barred on 13 February 2008. Ms Ahmed was barred for a period of five years for failing to provide services that she had been paid to provide and failing to provide clients with a refund, failing to act in accordance with the instructions of her clients and failing to take reasonable steps to maintain the reputation and integrity of the profession.

Tae Bae - MARA received a complaint against Mr Bae on 17 April 2008. He was barred on 11 June 2008. Mr Bae was barred for a period of five years for lodging forged documents with a skill assessing body and the DIAC. He was also found guilty of two charges of using false papers under section 234 of the Act.