

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 OCTOBER 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(50) Output 1.4: Compliance

Senator Ellison (L&CA 102) asked:

In relation to people trafficking, do you have any idea of the number of current prosecutions pending? Provide the number of convictions, the offences for which the convictions were incurred and continuing prosecutions.

Answer:

Based on information provided to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship from the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, as at 23 October 2008, 34 defendants have been charged with trafficking in persons related offences in Australia.

14 defendants have had charges discontinued on the basis of insufficient evidence.

Four defendants are at the pre-committal stage.

Five defendants have had a trial date set.

Nine defendants have had people trafficking-related offences proven under the *Criminal Code Act 1995*. Of these:

- six were convicted of slavery offences (s 270.3 (1));
- two were convicted of sexual servitude offences (s 270.6(2));
- one was convicted of trafficking in persons (involving deceptive recruitment) (s 271.2(2B)), and dealing with the proceeds of crime (s 400.6(1)).

Three of these defendants were also convicted of offences under the *Migration Act 1958*. Two were convicted of one count of arranging a sham marriage contrary to s240, and one was convicted of four counts of providing false statements contrary to section 234(1) (b). Four have appeals before the courts and one is awaiting sentencing.

Two defendants have been acquitted of people trafficking-related offences.

The Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions can provide further updates on trafficking in person's court matters.