

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 OCTOBER 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(53) Output 1.4: Compliance

Senator Ellison (L&CA 102) asked:

In relation to section 501 cases, can you give us an update of how many visas have been cancelled and how many remain? I guess that would then add up to all those considered by the Minister, I guess – those that remain and those that have been cancelled.

Answer:

As at 1 October 2008, in the 2008-09 financial year, of the 209 visas considered for cancellation under section 501, 16 were cancelled. Of those individuals whose visas were cancelled, two have departed Australia and 14 are in criminal detention.

As advised in Question on Notice 46 (Budget Estimates Hearing on 28 May 2008), I have devolved responsibility for the majority of section 501 decisions to Departmental delegates. This provides greater transparency and accountability and ensures that, where appropriate, decisions are subject to merits as well as judicial review.