

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(48) Program: 3.1: Border Management

Senator Fierravanti-Wells (L&C 114) asked:

Could you give me some details and take on notice unauthorised arrivals at the airport, noting that we have got 15 million movements across the border by non-Australians, made up of 14.2 million movements at airports and 0.8 million movements at sea ports. I would be interested to look at those figures over the last three or four years.

Answer:

Persons travelling to Australia are required to present evidence of their identity through the presentation of a travel document and, for non-citizens, their authority to enter Australia.

The majority of people who are refused immigration clearance at airports travel to Australia holding genuine documentation. In such cases information comes to hand that results in their visa being refused or cancelled on arrival. For example, on arrival they may have been identified as having been granted a visa based on false information at the time of application, or in some other way were found to be non bona fide, for example, where there is an intention to work in breach of a visa condition, or where character issues have been identified.

Only some of those refused entry on arrival are found to be inappropriately documented. This may include persons who, for example, arrive without a visa, arrive on a fraudulently altered passport, or arrive having destroyed or disposed of their documentation *en route* to Australia.

In 2008-09, 1284 persons were refused immigration clearance at Australian airports; of those 147 were refused for being inappropriately documented. In 2007-08, 1189 persons were refused immigration clearance at Australian airports; of those 128 were refused for being inappropriately documented. In 2006-07, 1388 persons were refused immigration clearance at Australian airports; of those 163 were refused for being inappropriately documented.