

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(51) Program 4.1: Visa Compliance and Status Resolution

Senator Fierravanti-Wells (L&CA 115) asked:

In relation to the response to question number 48 from the May 2009 Estimates hearings, my question now is to drill down to get a profile of these overstayers. I really would appreciate it if we could. Please take this on notice. I want a breakdown of those 48,500. You have given me figures from 2003-04, when there were 59,800 overstayers, right down to 2008-09. I assume you have got that statistic.

I would like a comprehensive profile of them, including the range of dates and the type, the profiling of them. Provide information as to nationality, length of overstay by cohort, and possibly age.

Answer:

A new estimate of overstayers is produced on 30 June of each year.

As at 30 June 2009, it was estimated that there were around 48 700 overstayers in Australia, who previously held visas in the following categories:

- Visitor 82%
- Student 9%
- Temporary Resident 5%
- Other 4%

The age distribution within this estimate was:

- 0 to 20 years old 5%
- 21 to 30 years old 15%
- 31 to 40 years old 20%
- 41 to 50 years old 24%
- 51 to 60 years old 16%
- 61 years and over 20%

62 per cent of these overstayers were male.

The majority of overstayers were from:

- People's Republic of China 12%
- United States of America 10%
- Malaysia 7%
- United Kingdom 7%
- Philippines 5%
- The Republic of Korea 5%
- Indonesia 5%
- India 3%

- Thailand 3%
- Vietnam 3%

Around 19 per cent of people considered overstayers at 30 June 2009 had been unlawful for one year or less. This figure does not include those people who overstayed their temporary visa during the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 that had resolved their immigration status prior to 30 June 2009.

For those who have overstayed more than one year, they have overstayed for:

- 1 to 2 years 9%
- 2 to 3 years 6%
- 3 to 4 years 5%
- 4 to 5 years 4%
- 5 to 10 years 19%
- 10 to 15 years 13%
- more than 15 years 25%