

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(162) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

- (1) How many applications from offshore agents were received for 457 visas in the years 2007-2008, 2008-2009 and 2009-2010?
- (2) To which overseas office were these applications submitted?
- (3) Of these applications how many were rejected and how many were granted?
- (4) What was the processing time for each application from the date of submission to the date of either the rejection or granting for the 457 visa?

Answer:

The majority of offshore migration agents are not registered with the Migration Agents Registration Authority. Information about offshore migration agents is not automatically recorded in departmental systems when visa applications are lodged. As a result, the information requested is not readily available and to answer the question would involve a significant and unreasonable diversion of resources as the department would need to individually examine applications for visa subclass 457 lodged since July 2007 in order to answer the question.