

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: OCTOBER 2011

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### (SE11/0245) Program 3.1: Border Management

Senator Cash asked:

How many travellers to Australia have presented with false or altered documents? What happens to them? Has anyone been prosecuted for presenting false or fraudulent documents?

*Answer:*

The number of inappropriately documented arrivals at Australian air and sea ports for financial year 2011/12 as at 30 September 2011 is 29. Non-citizen travellers arriving at an air or sea port in Australia may be refused immigration clearance on a number of grounds, including for presenting inappropriate documentation to clearance officers. 'Inappropriately documented arrivals' refers to travellers who were refused immigration clearance at the border and who arrived

- without a travel document, or
- without a travel document that is in force, or
- with a bogus travel document, or
- with a travel document issued to someone else (impostor) or that has been fraudulently altered,

as well as travellers who were refused immigration clearance, who arrived on a genuine passport without a visa in effect and who were not granted a visa in clearance.

Of the 29 cases of travellers found to be inappropriately documented (refer above) at air and seaports over the 1st quarter program year 2011-12. 16 were airport travellers found to be inappropriately documented who were refused immigration clearance. Of this, 8 raised claims that prima facie engaged Australia's protection obligations and could therefore not be removed. The remaining 8 travellers were removed within a 72 hour period.

Seaports cases, 13 travellers found to be inappropriately documented over the 1st quarter program year 2011-12 (this does not include IMA's). All 13 departed within the 1st quarter.

In the 2010–11 financial year, three persons were successfully prosecuted and convicted in relation to the provision of false or altered documents.

From July 1 to September 30 2011 another two persons were successfully prosecuted in relation to the provision of false or altered documents.