

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0326) PROGRAM – 3.1: Border Management

Senator Cash (L&CA 35) asked:

Where are biometric identifiers collected, and at which overseas posts and Australian ports? For which visa subclasses are biometrics collected?

Answer:

Mr Vardos advised which overseas posts collected biometrics at the Senate estimates hearing (Hansard page 45 refers).

The list of visa subclasses for which biometrics are collected is available on the department's website at http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/biometrics/_pdf/biometric-visa-subclasses.pdf

DIAC is also expanding the use of biometrics in the Refugee and Humanitarian caseloads to enable us to 'anchor' applicants' identities at an early stage in their visa application process, by using mobile biometrics kits in the field during interview trips.

As of 1 November 2012, the Department began collecting biometric enrolments at Sydney Airport for airport turn-arounds (people who have been refused entry at the Border) under Detention arrangements.