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Monthly Travel Exemptions Processing Report

The below statistics are for the month of September 2021. Data prior to 1 August 2020 is collated manually from multiple systems.

	Cumulative ¹		September 2021	
Travel exemption requests received (a request may include more than one person)				
Outwards	472,299		36,592 (↓ 1204)	
Inwards	407,553		24,129 (↓ 2216)	
Outward travel exemption decisions				
Category	Approved	Refused ³	Approved	Refused ³
Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak	998	318	76	37
Critical industries and business	32,930	12,135	3,035	1,313
Urgent medical treatment	1,550	1,879	105	227
Travelling overseas for a compelling reason for at least 3 months ²	117,843	40,355	11,402	4,665
Ordinarily resident outside Australia ⁴	5,974	1,831	2,142	1,104
Urgent and unavoidable personal business	14,608	9,852	197	466
Compassionate and compelling grounds	54,557	68,222	3,519	4,788
National interest	2,958	168	253	38
TOTALS	231,418	134,760	20,729	12,638
Otherwise finalised ⁵	102,423		1,481	
Total finalisations for outwards travel exemptions	468,601		34,848	
On-hand caseload at the end of September 2021			3,698 (↑ 1744)	
Inward travel exemptions decisions				
Category	Approved	Refused ³	Approved	Refused ³
Compassionate and compelling	19,376	108,851	4,116	5,574
Critical skills – Medical	2,561	295	224	19
Critical skills – other	37,553	42,219	2,844	3,693
National interest (including diplomatic)	3,538	28	185	<5
Urgent Medical Treatment	823	513	41	41
Transit	7,777	9	-	-
TOTALS	71,628	151,915	7,410	9,327
Otherwise finalised ⁵	180,069		6,799	
Total finalisations for inwards travel exemptions	403,612		23,536	
On-hand caseload at the end of September 2021			3,941 (↑ 593)	

¹ Cumulative figures are since 20 March 2020 for inwards exemptions and 25 March 2020 for outwards exemptions

² Prior to 30 September 2020, this category was included within "Urgent and unavoidable personal business". "For a compelling reason" was added on 8 January 2021.

³ Refused requests generally failed to support their claims or did not meet the guidelines for an exemption to be approved

⁴ Became a discretionary category rather than automatically exempt from 11 August 2021.

⁵ Otherwise finalised includes persons found to meet an already exempt category, withdrawn requests and those that did not contain sufficient information for referral to a decision maker.

Authorising Officer:	Assistant Secretary, Temporary Visas and Travel Exemptions
Date:	1 October 2021

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