



Hon. Pio Tikoduadua
Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration

PARLIAMENTARY - WRITTEN QUESTION NO. 113/2023

Tuesday 12 September, 2023 - Response to Hon. Sanjay Kirpal

QUESTION:

Can the Minister provide the following information on Fijians that went abroad since 1 January 2023 to 31 August 2023 in the following categories-?

- (a) **data on the number of Fijians that have migrated to Australia, New Zealand, Canada and USA from 1 January 2023 to 31 August 2023 both on skilled migration and on visitor's visa; and**
- (c) **data on the number of Fijians who went to a foreign country in each month from January to August 2023 under skilled migration**

RESPONSE

Fijians continues to migrate to Australia, New Zealand, Canada and USA mainly for employment and study purpose, according to information gathered from departure records. Between 1 January 2023 and 31 August 2023, Fijians migrated for education/training purpose is around 3,650, approximately 5,552 for employment and 1,946 migrating to traditional peers Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States.

There is limited information on both Immigration border system and departure records to ascertain total number of Fijians traveling abroad for holiday on visitor's visa. The Immigration Department continues to work on addressing these challenges with development partners and areas that could enhance our systems at our port of entries for both aerodrome and maritime.

(b) data on the number of Fijians who were on visitor's visa and have still not returned from 1 January to 31 August 2023; and

RESPONSE:

Fijians travelled for visiting purpose and have not returned during the period (1 Jan to 31 August 2023) cannot be captured on the border system. The department will continue to focus on immigration flows and implement relevant policies to address its immigration challenges. Various other indicative data are not fully integrated into the system electronically, thus providing the essential data is difficult since countries of destination process and capture their own visitor's visa data.