THE HON PETER DUTTON MP
MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION

MEDIA RELEASE

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VISA CANCELLATIONS FOR SERIOUS CRIMES

Eight murderers and seven people convicted of manslaughter were among 300 foreign nationals in Queensland stripped of their visas last year.

Fifty six had their visas cancelled for committing assault, 15 for grievous bodily harm and another 35 for other violent offences.

Fourteen people convicted of rape or sex offences in Queensland had visas cancelled, as did 21 for child sex offences or child pornography.

Seventy two lost their visas for committing serious drug offences, 24 for armed robbery and 15 for break and enter and theft.

Nationally almost 1,200 non-citizens had their visas cancelled and faced deportation from Australia in 2017.

Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Immigration and Border Protection Peter Dutton said the strengthened section 501 provisions of the Migration Act introduced by the Coalition in 2014 are a powerful and effective tool to manage those who pose a threat to the Australian community.

"We have zero tolerance for non-citizens who put Australians in danger and think they can exploit our visa system," Mr Dutton said.

"We take the safety and wellbeing of Australians very seriously. Anyone who thinks they can come to our country and commit crimes can think again".

Mr Dutton said Australians are grateful for law-abiding visitors who contribute positively to the country; however there are always those who think they can use and abuse our laws and harm our citizens.

"We have strong measures in place under section 501 of the Migration Act to deal with these criminals; they are not welcome in our country".

The most visa cancellations occurred in New South Wales where there were 430, followed by Queensland. Victoria had 217; Western Australia 179; South Australia 43; the Northern Territory 16; Australian Capital Territory eight and Tasmania five.

For further information: Minister's Office – 02 6277 7860