

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE16/056) - Postcodes 6076 and 6111 added to areas eligible for visas (417) - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA 140/141) asked:

Senator PRATT: Finally, postcodes 6076 and 6111 were added to the areas that are eligible for these visas. Those areas adjoin a growing domestic unemployment rate in that region of Perth where there is nine per cent and 10 per cent youth unemployment. I want to challenge why those areas were added.

Mr Wilden: I would have to take on notice the full detail. From memory, they are in Western Australia.

Mr Pezzullo: Perth. The senator just said Perth.

Mr Wilden: Sorry. They are just outside of Perth. It is an area where there is still farming and agricultural sort of work. The representation was made that they were not getting workers, which is normally the basis for any inclusion or exclusion of postcodes under any of our visa types.

Answer:

On 13 September 2016, the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection added postcodes 6076 and 6111 as eligible areas.

The change was made following advice and evidence from the horticulture industry in the Perth Hills area, which includes these postcodes, that they were unable to source sufficient labour to meet their seasonal labour needs.