

QUESTION ON NOTICE

011 – Select Committee on Temporary Migration – 10 September 2020

Topic: Tourism

Question submitted by Senator Chandler

Question

We've talked a lot about working holiday-makers, particularly in the fruit picking and agriculture industry, but I'm also interested in the work that DFAT is doing in the tourism space. Obviously, this is an industry and international export that's been hit incredibly hard by COVID-19. I was wondering what engagement the department has had with Australian tourism stakeholders about the impact of working holiday-makers not being able to come to Australia since March and for the foreseeable future. What will that look like for the industry? What work has the department done in this space?

Answer

Response supplied by Austrade:

Austrade engages closely with tourism stakeholders on the impacts of COVID and tourism recovery, including through the National Tourism Incident Communication Plan (NTICP). The NTICP comprises government agencies, states and territories and peak tourism organisations and has met 34 times so far in 2020. Austrade also attends the industry-led Tourism Restart Taskforce meeting group as an observer, regularly engages with industry associations on a bilateral basis, and participates in a range of virtual industry forums.

Austrade continues to consult with the tourism industry on all aspects of tourism recovery, including the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) program.

Austrade is also working across the Federal Government and with the states and territories on tourism recovery. As part of that, Austrade, together with DFAT and Tourism Australia, are also working with relevant government agencies to consider ways to support Working Holiday Makers still in Australia and to develop policy options for welcoming back new WHMs when conditions are safe.

QUESTION ON NOTICE

012 – Select Committee on Temporary Migration – 10 September 2020

Topic: FTAs

Question submitted by Senator Chandler

Question

Senator Chandler: My next question might likewise be for another area of DFAT. I was interested in understanding some of the requirements that Australia has under our free trade agreement [inaudible] workers and how those reciprocal workers would allow Australians to work overseas. Could you give an overview of that information? You might have to take that on notice.

Answer

Commitments on the movement of skilled workers in Australia's trade agreements support our objective of promoting two-way trade and investment, and are a standard feature of all but one of our trade agreements (the Australia – United States Free Trade Agreement). Referred to as 'movement of natural persons' (MNP) in trade agreements, MNP commitments provide important opportunities for skilled Australians to work temporarily in other countries, to explore business and investment opportunities; to supply professional and other services on a temporary basis, such as legal services; to gain international experience and new skills by working temporarily overseas for their Australian or other foreign employer; or to install and maintain specialist Australian manufactures, such as mining-related equipment. These commitments give Australian business people greater access and certainty through specifying how long they can stay and temporarily work in another country, and in some cases preferential exemptions from numerical quotas and economic needs tests and the ability to be accompanied by spouses and dependants.

To secure these benefits, in return Australia generally makes equivalent MNP commitments in similar categories described above. The extent of our MNP commitments, including length of stay and any waiver of labour-market testing, depends on the overall balance of commitments in any agreement. Employer sponsorship requirements; skills, qualifications and licensing requirements; and requirements for Australian wages and employment conditions continue to apply to skilled workers from our trading partners as these are not subject to negotiation in trade agreements.

Select Committee on Temporary Migration
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QUESTION ON NOTICE

013 – Select Committee on Temporary Migration – 10 September 2020
Topic: Pacific Labour Facility

Question submitted by Senator Walsh

Question

How many people are employed [by Palladium at the Pacific Labour Facility] in compliance?

Answer

Six people.

Select Committee on Temporary Migration
Temporary Migration Public Hearing 10 September 2020

QUESTION ON NOTICE

014 – Select Committee on Temporary Migration– 10 September 2020
Topic: Pacific Labour Facility

Question submitted by Senator Walsh

Question

Senator Walsh: Would you be able to tell us on notice how many people there are employed by the PLF who do that work with labour sending units, including, as you just mentioned, the number of people on the ground in the countries as well?

Answer

There are 30 people. Of these, 25 are located in the Pacific.