

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

2020 - 2021

Division: Macroeconomic Conditions Division
Topic: Working Holiday Makers
Reference: Written - Senator Keneally, IQ20-000266

Question:

1. A large number of Working Holiday Makers have left Australia following the Prime Minister's call for temporary visa holders to return home in early April. What is the estimated cost of Working Holiday Makers leaving Australia to the Australian economy?
2. Has Treasury undertaken any analysis as to the economic impact of Working Holiday Makers leaving Australia for the upcoming harvest season?
 - a. If so, what are the findings?
 - b. If not, why not? Does the Department intend to conduct such inquiries/investigations?

Answer:

1. Treasury has not estimated the direct cost of Working Holiday Makers leaving Australia to the Australian economy.
2.
 - a. Treasury has not undertaken analysis to estimate the economic impact of Working Holiday Makers leaving Australia for the upcoming harvest season. ABARES' September quarter [Agricultural Commodities](#) report published on 15 September 2020 considered the risk of seasonal labour availability for horticultural production.
 - b. Treasury has undertaken a range of analyses to estimate the effects of COVID-19 on the economy. These analyses involved assessing the broader economy-wide impact of travel restrictions, including on services exports such as tourism and education exports. Treasury considers relevant information including ABARES analysis and forecasts when developing forecasts of rural production and exports.