

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS
PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Senate Education and Employment

06 August 2024

QoN Number: IQ24-000183

Subject: Modelling and Advice provided to the Department of Education and Treasury

Asked by: Sarah Henderson

Question:

Ms Tara Cavanagh - We have provided extensive data on student visa application and grant rates to the Department of Education. There is a range of modelling that I understand they are working on across government, including with our colleagues in Treasury that will go to advice to government on what potential planning level could be.

Senator Henderson - ...I would appreciate if you could provide a copy of that modelling and advice to the Committee

Answer: The costing assumptions for this measure are the subject of deliberations of Cabinet and its Committees and are confidential. It is a longstanding practice of successive Governments not to disclose information about the operation and business of the Cabinet and its Committees, including information on New Policy Proposals that may have been proposed or considered.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Senate Education and Employment

06 August 2024

QoN Number: IQ24-000184

Subject: Modelling and Advice based on Australian Financial Review article

Asked by: Sarah Henderson

Question:

Senator Henderson - What modelling have you completed? Have you completed modelling based on the report in today's Australian Financial review? [...] What does your modelling show?

Ms Tara Cavanagh - We have not been asked to conduct modelling that would produce a particular result from particular historical date. We have been asked to provide inputs in terms of visa application and visa grant data, and that is what we have done.

Senator Henderson - I would ask you to provide a copy to the committee of that work that you've done in relation to this policy because I realise a lot of the data rests with the Department of Home Affairs, and it's very difficult - including for higher education providers - to navigate all the data because some of it is very opaque.

Answer: The costing assumptions for this measure are the subject of deliberations of Cabinet and its Committees and are confidential. It is a longstanding practice of successive Governments not to disclose information about the operation and business of the Cabinet and its Committees, including information on New Policy Proposals that may have been proposed or considered.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Senate Education and Employment

06 August 2024

QoN Number: IQ24-000187

Subject: International student visa holders' contribution to Net Overseas Migration (NOM)

Asked by: Sarah Henderson

Question:

Senator Henderson - Can you give an indication of what international student visa holders' contribution to NOM will be for 2023-24 and for calendar year 2024?

Ms Tara Cavanagh - I don't have that data on me.

Senator Henderson – Is that held by the Department of Home Affairs?

Ms Tara Cavanagh – That would be Treasury.

Senator Henderson - You would hold that raw data though, you collect the data.

Mr Damien Kilner – We have grant numbers. We have arrival numbers. We have numbers of those -

Senator Henderson – Right. Could we have that data on notice please?

Answer:

Not all student visa holders contribute to Net Overseas Migration. The Department of Home Affairs does not model or produce forecasts for net overseas migration (NOM). The modelling and forecasts for NOM are produced by the Centre for Population within the Treasury.

Data held by the Department of Home Affairs in relation to Student visa grants and movement across the border is contained in tables 1-3 below.

Note: Overseas arrivals and departures figures (Tables 2 and 3) record the number of movements of travellers rather than the number of travellers. For example, multiple movements of an individual traveller during a given reference period are all counted.

Table 1: Student visa grants per year by caseload and location

| Client Location | Visa Type | 2023-24 | 2024-25 to 31/07/2024 |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------|-----------------------|
| In Australia | Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector | 292 | <5 |
| | Higher Education Sector | 49,261 | 5,859 |
| | Independent ELICOS Sector | 7,361 | 785 |
| | Non-Award Sector | 206 | <20 |
| | Postgraduate Research Sector | 4,223 | 302 |
| | Schools Sector | 1,520 | 80 |
| | Vocational Education and Training Sector | 45,071 | 4,350 |
| In Australia Total | | 107,934 | 11,393 |
| Outside Australia | Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector | 4,336 | 296 |
| | Higher Education Sector | 177,969 | 17,750 |
| | Independent ELICOS Sector | 31,659 | 1,923 |
| | Non-Award Sector | 17,457 | 623 |
| | Postgraduate Research Sector | 8,573 | 638 |
| | Schools Sector | 8,258 | 765 |
| | Vocational Education and Training Sector | 20,545 | 1,115 |
| Outside Australia Total | | 268,797 | 23,110 |
| Grand Total | | 376,731 | 34,503 |

Table 2: Student visa holder movement data – 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024

| Movement Direction | Total |
|--------------------|---------|
| Arrival | 727,894 |
| Departure | 528,981 |

Table 3: Student visa holder movement data – 1 January 2024 to 31 May 2024

| Movement Direction | Total |
|--------------------|---------|
| Arrival | 387,380 |
| Departure | 208,415 |

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Senate Education and Employment

06 August 2024

QoN Number: IQ24-000188

Subject: Overseas Student Contribution to Net Overseas Migration (NOM)

Asked by: Sarah Henderson

Question:

Senator Henderson - The former immigration Deputy Secretary Abul Rizvi says the student contribution to NOM has to fall to well below 100,000 for the government to hit its 2024-25 NOM target of 260,000. These are questions about data that your department holds.

Ms Tara Cavanagh – I have not seen that particular piece. I'm happy to have a look after this.

Senator Henderson – I'm not talking about any media. I'm asking a question on the student contribution to the NOM. I won't say it again. If you don't have the answer, could you please take it on notice?

Ms Tara Cavanagh - Certainly.

Answer: The Department of Home Affairs does not model or produce forecasts for net overseas migration (NOM). The modelling and forecasts for NOM are produced by the Centre for Population within the Treasury.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS
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Senate Education and Employment

06 August 2024

QoN Number: IQ24-000189

Subject: Cost of Changes to Home Affairs' IT Systems

Asked by: Sarah Henderson

Question:

Senator Henderson – You've indicated there will be significant changes required to your systems, for both your department and the department of Education, to implement caps. Can I please quickly ask: what's the cost of these changes, and have they been budgeted? This is in your submission, page 5.
Ms Tara Cavanagh - [...] I could take that on notice.

Answer: The costing assumptions for this measure are the subject of deliberations of Cabinet and its Committees and are confidential. It is a longstanding practice of successive Governments not to disclose information about the operation and business of the Cabinet and its Committees, including information on New Policy Proposals that may have been proposed or considered.