

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

**Inquiry into the Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Quality and Integrity)**

**Bill 2024**

2024 - 2025

**Department:** Department of the Treasury  
**Topic:** Internal working NOM documents  
**Reference:** Spoken (2 October 2024)  
**Senator:** Sarah Henderson

**Question:**

Senator HENDERSON: Sorry, but just to be clear—I don't want to have a debate about it—I'm seeking the documents that we sought, which were your internal working calculations in relation to net overseas migration. That was taken on notice. We have sought those documents and we have not received them, and we are asking for them in order to do our work.

Ms Reinhardt: Senator, I think we've tabled the answer to the question on notice, and that has information on that work that's been undertaken.

Senator HENDERSON: We've also asked for the documents.

Ms Reinhardt: I think I said previously that they were part of a cabinet process, and I can take that on notice—

Senator HENDERSON: With respect, that's not a reason not to provide the documents. That is not in accordance with the Senate rules. Yes, if it is a formal cabinet document—as probably you understand. But information which informs cabinet is not a protected document. Is it possible for you to provide these documents this afternoon?

Ms Reinhardt: I can take that on notice, but there aren't documents that I would provide that would not be related to the cabinet process—

...

Senator HENDERSON: I'm not asking for an update. I'm asking for your internal working documents. I'm saying to you that this is very important and I'm very concerned that our request has not been fulfilled as required under the rules of the Senate.

Ms Reinhardt: I'm not sure how to say it. We do an update—

Senator HENDERSON: Do you want to take it on notice?

Ms Reinhardt: I can take it on notice.

Senator HENDERSON: I don't want to have a debate with you about it. I'm just saying that's your obligation. My only question was: In relation to those internal working documents, those calculations, and to how you might respond to the question on notice, are they with the Treasurer? Have you provided those questions to the Treasurer?

Ms Reinhardt: If it's helpful, we could provide the detailed breakdown of what into the net overseas migration data for the budget—so the different visa classes that feed into those calculations broadly. But there is no update before we get to MYEFO.

Senator HENDERSON: Please don't mischaracterise my question. I think you're very well aware of what I'm asking, and I'm seeking those documents, please.

Ms Reinhardt: I can take that on notice, but, to be really honest, I'm not entirely sure. If it's the net overseas migration calculations, we do those twice a year and we're in the process of doing them for MYEFO.

Senator HENDERSON: What I'm asking for are your internal working documents in terms

of any advice or other communications in relation to those calculations, because I'm sure that you don't have a blank sheet of paper sitting in Treasury in relation to net overseas migration. Ms Reinhardt: I will take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The National Planning Level (NPL) was not factored into Treasury's net overseas migration (NOM) forecasts at the time of the 2024-25 Budget because the Government had not yet decided on the specific level.

The NPL of 270,000 represents the number of new overseas student commencements for the 2025 calendar year for the higher education and VET sectors, excluding exempt categories of students. Treasury forecasts migration on a financial year basis for arrivals and departures across all migrant categories.

The NPL is not equivalent to the forecast for student migrant arrivals. The number of student migrant arrivals includes categories of students which are exempt from the NPL. The number of new overseas student commencements is expected to be larger than the number of student migrant arrivals. This is primarily because:

- Some new overseas students are already onshore (i.e. they have already been counted as a migrant arrival in a previous period).
- Some students will not stay in Australia long enough to be counted as a migrant arrival (to be counted, they must be resident in Australia for at least 12 months over a 16-month period).

Treasury considers the NPL of 270,000 student commencements for the higher education and VET sectors to be broadly consistent with the 2024-25 Budget forecast, which forecast student migrant arrivals to decline from the peak observed in 2022-23.

The table below shows the detailed breakdown of the 2024-25 Budget NOM forecasts.

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
<b>2024-25 Budget</b>						
<b>Net Overseas Migration</b>						
<b>(thousand)</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>235</b>
<b>Arrivals</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>590</b>
<b>Departures</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>355</b>
Australian						
Citizens	-30	-35	-20	-15	-15	-15
Arrivals	60	60	70	80	80	80
Departures	90	95	95	95	95	95
New Zealand						
Citizens	25	30	20	15	15	15
Arrivals	40	45	40	30	30	30
Departures	15	15	15	15	15	15
Permanent	60	65	65	70	70	70
Arrivals	80	90	90	90	95	95
Departures	20	20	25	25	25	25
Student	265	185	130	115	95	95
Arrivals	280	215	195	200	200	200
Departures	15	30	70	85	105	105

All other						
temporary visas	210	155	70	75	65	65
Arrivals	280	265	200	195	185	185
Departures	70	110	135	120	120	120

These figures are as published in the 2024-25 Budget and have not been updated to reflect subsequent ABS data releases. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5,000 and may not sum to the total.