

Question on notice no. 132

Portfolio question number: LCC-BE20-132

2020-21 Budget estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Raff Ciccone: asked the Department of Home Affairs on 19 October 2020—

Senator CICCONE: Alright. How many temporary visa holders with work rights are currently in Australia? Do you have a breakdown of the visas?

Mr Pezzullo: Mr Kefford would have that information.

Mr Kefford: If you might just give us a couple of minutes to get that data with the breakdown-

Mr Pezzullo: Senator, are you making reference to the global number, the aggregate number of all temporary visa holders who have some form of work right?

Senator CICCONE: Yes. And, if possible, broken down by the different visa types. You can take that on notice.

Mr Pezzullo: Thank you. I think we will.

Mr Kefford: I think that would be helpful, because, of course, there are some visas-as we discussed at the temporary migration inquiry-that are specifically for the purposes of work; there are others, like students, who have incidental work rights. So coming to a single number on that is probably better taken on notice.

Senator CICCONE: Also, if you can: what are the main sectors they are working in?

Mr Kefford: I'm not sure we would necessarily have that detail beyond the ones that are for the purpose of work. We would not necessarily have data on what sectors students are working in with any degree of accuracy.

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET ESTIMATES
19-20 OCTOBER 2020**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
The Department of Home Affairs**

Program 2.3: Visas

BE20-132 - Temporary Visa Holders - Work rights

Senator Ciccone asked:

Senator CICCONE: Alright. How many temporary visa holders with work rights are currently in Australia? Do you have a breakdown of the visas?

Mr Pezzullo: Mr Kefford would have that information.

Mr Kefford: If you might just give us a couple of minutes to get that data with the breakdown—

Mr Pezzullo: Senator, are you making reference to the global number, the aggregate number of all temporary visa holders who have some form of work right?

Senator CICCONE: Yes. And, if possible, broken down by the different visa types. You can take that on notice.

Mr Pezzullo: Thank you. I think we will.

Mr Kefford: I think that would be helpful, because, of course, there are some visas—as we discussed at the temporary migration inquiry—that are specifically for the purposes of work; there are others, like students, who have incidental work rights. So coming to a single number on that is probably better taken on notice.

Senator CICCONE: Also, if you can: what are the main sectors they are working in?

Mr Kefford: I'm not sure we would necessarily have that detail beyond the ones that are for the purpose of work. We would not necessarily have data on what sectors students are working in with any degree of accuracy.

Answer:

At 31 August 2020, there were 1,789,726 temporary visa holders with work rights in Australia, noting that not everyone with work rights will choose to work. This figure includes secondary visa holders, such as spouses and children, who may have work rights but choose not to work, or are unable to do so.

Table: Temporary Visa Holders in Australia with work rights at 31 August 2020.

Visa Category	Visa Subclass	31/08/2020
Bridging	010 Bridging A	193,404
	020 Bridging B	38,943
	030 Bridging C	16,259
	050 Bridging (General)	21,404
	051 Bridging (Protection Visa Applicant)	<5
	060 Bridging F	48
	070 Bridging R	98
Bridging Total		270,158
Crew and Transit	988 Maritime Crew Visa	7,229
Crew and Transit Total		7,229
Other Temporary	590 Student Guardian	4,093
Other Temporary Total		4,093
Special Category	444 Special Category	660,293
Special Category Total		660,293
Student	500 Student	491,448
	560 Student	11
	570 Independent ELICOS Sector	<10
	571 Schools Sector	933
	572 Vocational Education and Training Sector	231
	573 Higher Education Sector	4,088
	574 Postgraduate Research Sector	1,512
	575 Non-Award Sector	<5
	576 Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector	18
Student Total		498,251
Working Holiday Maker	417 Working Holiday	57,556
	462 Work and Holiday	14,328
Working Holiday Maker Total		71,884
Temporary Resident (Other Employment)	400 Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity)	458
	403 Temporary Work (International Relations)	3,789
	405 Investor Retirement	132
	407 Training	2,461
	408 Temporary Activity	10,790
	410 Retirement	2,010
	461 New Zealand Citizen Family Relationship (Temporary)	4,859
	476 Skilled - Recognised Graduate	1,919
	485 Temporary Graduate	107,129
	870 Sponsored Parent (Temporary)	1,177
995 Diplomatic (Temporary)	4,548	
Temporary Resident (Other Employment) Total		139,272
Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)	457 Temporary Work (Skilled)	36,873
	482 Temporary Skill Shortage	83,923
Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) Total		120,796
Temporary Protection	785 Temporary Protection	5,491
	790 Safe Haven Enterprise	12,259
Temporary Protection Total		17,750
Grand Total		1,789,726

Sources: BP0012 and DD-5302 (BV)

Note: Bridging visa holders with Visa Condition 8101 ("No Work" Condition) have been excluded