

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-247

OUTCOME 4: Aged Care and Population Ageing

Topic: Aged Care Staffing in Darwin

Type of Question: Hansard Page 46, 15 February 2013

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

I was particularly surprised to learn that with workforce shortages in the Darwin area that up to 90 per cent of their staff are on some form of visa or otherwise, which I found quite an interesting statistic, particularly when you are trying to run a residential aged-care facility.

Answer:

It is not known what proportion of aged care workers are on a visa, are permanent residents or are Australian citizens. There is no specific data for Darwin available from the 2012 National Aged Care Workforce Census and Survey. In the Northern Territory, 27 per cent of respondents to the employee survey were born overseas but the number of respondents was small and this result should be treated with caution.

The 2012 National Aged Care Workforce Census and Survey indicates that nationally 35 per cent of direct care workers in residential aged care and 27.7 per cent in community aged care were born overseas.