

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

Question: AET 2999

Topic: ABS Population Projections #2

Written: Page 61, 26 February 2014

Senator DASTYARI asked:

2999. Senator DASTYARI: And the lower figure, which is scenario C, uses a net overseas migration of 200,000 a year, which is well above trends for the 1990s and 2000s. Does that mean that you are effectively saying that we are moving to a much higher net overseas migration projection, regardless of scenario?

Ms van Halderen: I am going to have to take that one on notice, because the three series that we put out in these projections are based on a series of assumptions, data driven as much as they can be, looking at the historical series. But I am not willing to offer an opinion like that here without further looking at it.

Senator DASTYARI: Yes, I understand. This is quite technical, about a report.

Mr Palmer: It sounds surprising that our lowest projection would be based on an assumption ahead of the trend, so we will need to look at that.

Answer:

2999. In framing the assumptions for net overseas migration (NOM), ABS has regard to historical trends and also advice from the community of population experts including state and federal planning and treasury representatives as well as academia.

The recent 5-year average for NOM is 234,000. The recent 10-year average for NOM is 195,000 – very close to scenario C of 200,000.

ABS is not saying anything about what the future of NOM is likely to be, but is illustrating scenarios based on observed data and expert advice.