

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 08 February 2016

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(AE16/065) - Temporary Skilled Migration income threshold - Programme 2.2: Migration**

Senator Bilyk, Catryna (L&CA 104/105) asked:

Senator BILYK: Thanks. That is probably all on Cadena.

I go to the temporary skilled migration income threshold. Are you able to tell me what proportion of all 457 nominations had a base salary of \$53,900—you would probably have to take this on notice—in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16?

Mr Wilden: I will have to take it on notice. The average—and I will also provide this—is up in the \$60,000 to \$70,000 mark for the average 457, but I will have to confirm the exact number sitting on the minimum.

Senator BILYK: Okay. I think most of my other questions in that area flow on, but I will ask them and you can tell me if you need to take them on notice. What proportion of nominations in each industry had a base salary of \$53,900 in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16?

Mr Wilden: On notice.

Senator BILYK: What proportion of nominations in each state and territory had a base salary of \$53,900 in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16?

Mr Wilden: On notice.

Senator BILYK: What proportion of all 457 visa nominations had a base salary of \$51,400 in 2012-13?

Mr Wilden: Historically? On notice.

Senator BILYK: What proportion of all 457 visa nominations had a base salary of \$49,330 in 2011-12? In announcing the review of the temporary skilled migration income threshold on 23 December 2015, the minister's media release stated:

The TSMIT defines the salary threshold for jobs that can be filled by a 457 visa holder and is designed to protect Australian workers and ensure that visa holders are undertaking skilled employment.

How many Australian workers are being protected if the TSMIT has been on hold for over two years?

Mr Wilden: The TSMIT itself, set as it is at \$53,900 for the last two years, is up towards the median wage, so it is well above minimum wage across just about every industry. That in itself is one of the protections for Australian jobs; the 457 salary element cannot be used to undercut Australian wages.

Senator BILYK: Unless you work at 7-Eleven, Pizza Hut, Myer—any of those.

Mr Wilden: To go to the earlier statements: they are not 457 workers.

Senator BILYK: Okay, fair enough. So you are taking all of them on notice?

Mr Wilden: The detailed ones, yes. They will be on notice.

Answer:

- 1&2. The proportion of all approved 457 nominations with a base salary of \$53,900; and the average base salary of all approved 457 nominations in 2013–14, 2014–15 and 2015-16 (to 31 January 2016) are provided in the table below:

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 to 31/01/16
Proportion of all approved 457 nominations with the base salary of \$53,900	3.90%	3.10%	2.60%
Average base salary of all approved 457 nominations	\$ 87,283	\$ 87,807	\$ 87,870

3. The proportion of approved 457 nominations in each industry which had a base salary of \$53,900 in 2013-14, 2014–15 and 2015–16 (to 31 January 2016) is provided in the table below:

Sponsor Industry	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 to 31/01/16
Accommodation and Food Services	23.9%	16.4%	13.1%
Administrative and Support Services	3.6%	1.8%	1.1%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	8.5%	10.1%	8.3%
Arts and Recreation Services	8.5%	5.3%	4.6%
Construction	2.6%	2.5%	2.8%
Education and Training	1.8%	0.9%	0.6%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	1.8%	1.8%	1.1%
Financial and Insurance Services	3.6%	2.2%	3.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	2.2%	1.9%	1.7%
Information Media and Telecommunications	1.1%	1.0%	0.7%
Manufacturing	7.0%	6.4%	3.3%
Mining	0.4%	0.1%	0.3%
Not Recorded	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Services	6.4%	5.0%	5.0%
Professional, Scientific and Technical	1.5%	1.1%	1.1%
Public Administration and Safety	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	7.1%	3.2%	0.0%
Retail Trade	14.0%	10.0%	9.5%
Transport Postal and Warehousing	3.1%	1.9%	3.7%
Wholesale Trade	6.3%	3.4%	4.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>

Note 1: Excludes nominations under a labour agreement

4. The proportion of approved 457 nominations in each state and territory which had a base salary of \$53,900 in 2013–14, 2014–15 and 2015–16 (to 31 January 2016) is provided in the table below:

Nominated Position Location	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 to 31/01/16
Australian Capital Territory	5.4%	2.6%	2.3%
New South Wales	4.4%	3.1%	2.6%
Northern Territory	6.6%	4.5%	5.8%
Queensland	8.3%	7.2%	7.8%
South Australia	5.2%	5.3%	4.0%
Tasmania	2.2%	2.1%	2.8%
Victoria	6.8%	5.0%	4.2%
Western Australia	5.4%	4.7%	4.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
<i>Note 1: Excludes nominations under a labour agreement</i>			

5. In 2012–13, 4.4 per cent of all approved 457 visa nominations had a base salary of \$51,400.
6. In 2011–12, 1.7 per cent of all approved 457 visa nominations had a base salary of \$49,330.
7. The TSMIT is set well above the National minimum wage and combined with other safeguards such as the Market Salary Rate requirement ensures that the Australian workers are effectively protected.