

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 08 February 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE16/068) - Visa Processing Office - staffing - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Bilyk, Catryna (L&CA 106) asked:

Mr Williams: We have a big visa processing office.

Senator BILYK: They must be doing a great job—that is all I will say—if they are in Hobart!

Mr Williams: They are doing an excellent job. Some of the work and holiday visa categories—the smaller one that is more market specific—tend to be processed overseas closer to where the applicants are. They are often managed carefully because there can be a cap applied, so it is best handled out of the one office in the market concerned or in the country concerned.

Senator BILYK: Are you able to tell me how many full-time-equivalent staff are engaged in this?

Ms Dacey: Sorry, we will have to take that one on notice.

Senator BILYK: Can you also tell me if this has changed at all since 12 May 2015 and, if so, by how many staff members and why?

Ms Dacey: Yes.

Answer:

Visa processing staff are allocated between programmes to manage fluctuation in seasonal demand and application rates. In February 2016, there were 36.6 full time equivalent staff engaged in processing Working Holiday Maker (WHM) applications. In May 2015, there were 48.6 full time equivalent staff dedicated to WHM processing. Certain WHM applications are processed overseas, however the Department cannot break down these staffing levels by visa subclass.