

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 08 February 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE16/071) – Jobs held by Working Holiday visa holders - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Bilyk, Catryna (L&CA 107) asked:

Senator BILYK: Do we know anything about the amount earned by a WHV holder during their stay?

Mr Wilden: No.

Senator BILYK: Because they do not have to tell you if they work?

Mr Wilden: Correct.

Mr Williams: If I recall correctly, that study indicated that a lot of the earnings were turned over whilst they were in Australia.

Senator BILYK: Are we able to know—and I am presuming we are not, if they do not have to tell you that they have worked—the number of jobs held by working holiday-maker visa holders?

Mr Wilden: We would have some data, which I will take on notice, for those who apply for a second working holiday, because they actually have to show evidence of what they did in their first year. But that is a small cohort of the total group.

Mr Williams: Also, it will be skewed, because you are only eligible if you are working in certain industries, so we will not have the full gamut of industries in which working holiday-makers are engaged.

Senator BILYK: But you can get us what you have?

Mr Williams: We can give you all that we have.

Answer:

Working Holiday visa holders are only required to provide the Department of Immigration and Border Protection with information about their employment when they are providing evidence that they have undertaken 'specified work' in regional Australia in order to obtain a second year Working Holiday visa. Specified work is certain activities in the agriculture/forestry/fishing, mining and construction industries.

In 2014–15, 41,339 second Working Holiday visas were granted. Around 92 per cent of these visas were granted on the basis of the applicant reporting agriculture/forestry/fishing as their main industry for completion of their specified work.