

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 27 February 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE17/079) – Example allegations of rorting the 457 visa program – Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA 125) asked:

Senator PRATT: Okay. What allegations have been made regarding rorting of the 457 visa program overall?

Ms Dacey: By sponsors or applicants?

Senator PRATT: Sponsors.

Ms Dacey: If we get complaints we refer them to our Sponsor Monitoring Unit with our ABF colleagues. I think the reality is there is a lot of noise in the system about the 457 program and a lot of things get said. I do not have with me—I do not think—data on the number of complaints we have had about sponsors, but I can see what I can find out for you on notice, if you would like.

Senator PRATT: Okay, you can take those on notice, and some example allegations.

Answer:

Statistics

Border Watch referrals are not recorded by type or by potential violation, and to retroactively review and categorise 457 sponsor violations from among these referrals would represent an unreasonable diversion of staff effort and Departmental resources to this task.

Example Allegations

Two example allegations about 457 visa sponsors were manually extracted from DIBP records, and are provided to illustrate the kinds of allegations received by the Department. Any sensitive information or personal identifiers have been redacted.

Example Allegation 1

Allegation: Sponsor was alleged to have charged \$10,000 in exchange for sponsorship. Sponsored persons do not commence working for the sponsor once visa is granted. Allegation states up to 10 sponsored persons have engaged in this behaviour.

Allegation date: 02/03/2016

Industry: Public Administration and Safety / Construction

State: WA

Example Allegation 2

Allegation: Visa holders not working in nominated position and working elsewhere for cash in hand. Allegation that some employees are paying up to \$40,000 to be sponsored.

Allegation date: 13/01/2016

Industry: Accommodation and Food Services

State: QLD

These allegations are currently under investigation by the Department.