

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 27 February 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE17/084) - Uncapped and capped visa arrangements - Programme 2.3: Visas**

Senator Gallacher, Alex (L&CA 133) asked:

CHAIR: Which countries are still on the uncapped visa? And is that reciprocal?

Mr Wilden: I would have to come back to you with the full list, so I will come back to you with the full list of countries.

CHAIR: Well, I do not really want to put you to that effort. Can you name a couple of prominent countries?

Mr Wilden: The UK was one of the first countries. And that is reciprocal. The nature of that agreement was up to a maximum, which I think was about 30,000 or something.

CHAIR: So, that is capped?

Mr Wilden: No, it is uncapped, but the reciprocity between the two countries goes to a maximum, which has never been reached by Australia—Brits coming in. And they are traditionally one of the largest. I think Taiwan and South Korea and maybe other uncapped ones as well—Ireland—so it is quite a diverse group of countries.

CHAIR: Does that effectively mean that as many Koreans as want to can come here on these work and holiday visas?

Mr Wilden: 'Working holiday'.

CHAIR: And as many Australians as want to can go to Korea on the same—

Mr Wilden: I would have to check. Again, it is particular to each agreement, because they are bilateral agreements. But in the case of Korea, we do not have a cap on the number of Koreans who can come here, and, from recollection, they do not have a cap on how many can go there. But there are a lot more Koreans coming here than there are Australians going to Korea.

CHAIR: Yes. And can you give me a couple of examples of a high-capped exchange and a low-capped exchange?

Mr Wilden: A high cap would be the 5,000 that we have with China, but that is not reciprocal, so that is very particular to that agreement. We have small capped exchanges with South American countries—

Ms Dacey: Slovak republic.

Mr Wilden: Yes. And I know we have signed one recently, with Spain, I think it was, for a couple of hundred places. And they are reciprocal. So, if it is 500, it is 500 each way.

CHAIR: Is it difficult to provide that information? I do not want to put you to—

Mr Wilden: No, it would not be an administrative burden.

CHAIR: Well, possibly, if you could give the committee just a—

Mr Wilden: Certainly.

CHAIR: list of the capped and the uncapped, so that we can understand it.

Mr Wilden: Certainly.

*Answer: (as at 16 March 2017)*

## Uncapped Arrangements

1. Australia has 19 reciprocal uncapped Working Holiday (subclass 417) visa arrangements currently in effect with:
  - Belgium;
  - Canada;
  - Cyprus;
  - Denmark;
  - Estonia;
  - Finland;
  - France;
  - Germany;
  - Hong Kong;
  - Ireland;
  - Italy;
  - Japan;
  - Malta;
  - Netherlands;
  - Norway;
  - South Korea;
  - Sweden;
  - Taiwan; and
  - United Kingdom.
  
2. Australia has a reciprocal uncapped Work and Holiday (subclass 462) visa arrangement currently in effect with the United States of America.

## Capped Arrangements

3. Australia has 18 reciprocal capped Work and Holiday (subclass 462) visa arrangements currently in effect with:
  - Argentina (700 places annually);
  - Bangladesh (100 places annually);
  - Chile (1500 places annually);
  - Hungary (200 places annually);
  - Indonesia (1000 places annually);
  - Israel (500 places annually);
  - Luxembourg (100 places annually);
  - Malaysia (100 places annually);
  - Poland (200 places annually);
  - Portugal (200 places annually);
  - San Marino (100 places annually);
  - Slovak Republic (200 places annually);
  - Slovenia (200 places annually);
  - Spain (600 places annually);
  - Thailand (500 places annually);
  - Turkey (100 places annually);
  - Uruguay (200 places annually); and

- Vietnam (200 places annually).
4. Australia has a non-reciprocal capped Work and Holiday (subclass 462) visa arrangement currently in effect with the People's Republic of China (5000 places annually).