

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 March 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE17/283) - Information on 457 Visas - Programme 2.3: Visas**

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA) written:

1. What type of information does the Department collect about 457 visa holders?
2. What type of information does the Department collect about 457 visa holders employers?
3. How many complaints have the Department received about the 457 program?
4. Can you provide a breakdown of those complaints and details of the main issues raised?
5. Do you hold information by State and region or local government area?
6. Please provide a breakdown of 457 visas over the last 5 years by local government area?

Answer:

1. *What type of information does the Department collect about 457 visa holders?*
2. *What type of information does the Department collect about 457 visa holders' employers?*

Applications for the subclass 457 visa are lodged online and the Department collects information relevant to the ability of both visa holders and employers' to meet specified regulatory criteria. A summary of the key types of information collected in these applications is provided at [Attachment A](#).

The Department may collect additional information following visa grant, as part of the monitoring activities conducted by the Department's Sponsor Monitoring Unit.

3. *How many complaints have the Department received about the 457 programme?*

The Global Feedback Unit (GFU) is the Department's central point for receiving, tracking and responding to client feedback. Information on the number of complaints received by the GFU regarding the subclass 457 programme is included in the table below:

<b>Programme year</b>	<b>Number of complaints regarding the 457 programme</b>
2015-16	235
2016-17 (as at 03/04/2017)	319

4. *Can you provide a breakdown of those complaints and details of the main issues raised?*

The table below provides a breakdown of the above mentioned complaints by topic.

<b>Complaints by topic</b>	<b>Programme year 2015-16</b>	<b>Programme year 2016-17 (as at 03/04/2017)</b>
Visa Processing	144	229
Decision	73	50
Other	10	23
Cancellation	5	8
Character/Security Checks	2	5
Health Assessments	1	3
Exclusion Periods	0	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>319</b>

5. *Do you hold information by State and region or local government area?*

Information regarding subclass 457 visas granted and subclass 457 visa holders by state is available at <https://data.gov.au/dataset/visa-temporary-work-skilled>.

6. *Please provide a breakdown of 457 visas over the last 5 years by local government area?*

The Department is unable to provide subclass 457 data based on Local Government Area.

**Summary of key types of information collected by the Department for subclass 457 applications**

Visa application form:

- personal details, including identifying information and contact details
- answers to health and character declarations
- details of the current visa and any visas held by the applicant in the past (if any)
- sponsor details
- details of the applicant's qualifications, training and skills relevant to the proposed nominated job in Australia
- details of English language testing undertaken.

Nomination application form:

- sponsor's details, including Australian Business Number (ABN)
- nomination details including details of the position to be filled, evidence of labour market testing (if applicable), terms and conditions of employment, description of the position
- position certifications (genuine position, market salary, employment contract)
- personal details of the nominated person and any accompanying family members, including identifying information and contact details.

Sponsorship Application Form:

- details of the business, including location of the business and the business structure, business name, ABN, details of all participants of the business, business annual turnover
- reasons for proposing the number of job positions the business intends to nominate
- industry sector the business is operating in
- any adverse history (if applicable)
- accredited status details (if applicable)
- details of training, including the gross expenditure of the business on training in the last 12 months
- information on whether the business is intending to sponsor workers to establish a business in Australia or to fulfill a contractual obligation (overseas businesses only).