

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 24 March 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE17/285) - General work agreements - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA) written:

- A) How many 457 visas are currently under work agreements?
- B) What is the average salary of these visas?
- C) Do any work agreements include a concession to reduce the TSMIT?
If yes, how many? Where are these work agreements based? How many visas have been granted with a nomination below the TSMIT?

Answer:

- A) As at 31 March 2017, there are a total of 3,220 primary Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) holders under the labour agreement programme.
- B) As at 31 March 2017, the average nominated base salary for these visa holders specified in their nomination application was \$67,600 and the average nominated total remuneration was \$68,100.
- C) Currently, there are five industry template labour agreements with salary concessions:
 - Dairy Industry – concession of a 45 hour week to meet the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT);
 - Minister of Religion – allows for the consideration of cash and non-cash components to meet TSMIT and also allows for a vow of poverty;
 - Pork Industry – concession of a 44 hour week to meet TSMIT;
 - Restaurant (fine dining) – concession of up to 10 per cent of the TSMIT; and
 - Snow sports – allows for ski/snow board instructors to work less than 38 hours per week provided the hourly rate of pay results in a salary equivalent to TSMIT.

While these work agreements allow for a nominated base salary below TSMIT, each employer is required to demonstrate that the terms and conditions of employment afforded to any nominated overseas workers will be no less favourable than that provided, or that would be provided, to an Australian undertaking the same role at the same location.

These industry template labour agreements are Australia wide. As at 31 March 2017, there had been 1,355 primary visas granted under these agreements.