

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 May 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE17/075) - 457 Changes - percentage held by univeristy lecturers - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 11) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: I want to come back to the universities. I have two broad areas of concern. The effect on the innovation system is a broad concern, but, in the first instance, I am interested in the impact on the research community—universities and research agencies. Let us just take lecturers. Can you confirm that there are about 2,000 lecturers on 457 visas?

Mr Wilden: We will confirm the number, but that is roughly correct.

Senator KIM CARR: What percentage of the total number of 457 visas would that be? You can take that on notice.

Mr Wilden: We will.

Senator KIM CARR: Has that number changed in recent years? Has there been a significant influx of lecturers on 457 visas?

Mr Pezzullo: We will take that on notice.

Answer:

As at 31 May 2017, there were 2,028 university lecturers in Australia on Temporary Work (Skilled) visas (subclass 457). This constituted 2% of the total number of subclass 457 visa holders on that date. There has been no significant influx of lecturers on 457 visas with numbers remaining reasonably steady, under 2% of the 457 visa programme, over the past five years.