

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 May 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(BE17/085) - Distinguished talent visa - Types of professions - Programme 2.3: Visas**

Senator Kakoschke-Moore, Skye (L&CA 28) asked:

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: Sure. My further questions were around the breakdown of those visas. I am aware that elite sportspeople as well as artists and those who work in science professions are able to apply for this visa. Would you have a breakdown of the number of visas granted according to each of those broad occupational headings?

Mr Wilden: We do not grant distinguished based on the occupation; we grant it based on the characteristics of the individual. The process is that they are sponsored in and, as part of that process, we determine whether or not they are distinguished. They have to be referenced by the appropriate authorities within their field of expertise. I am not sure but I do not think we can provide it as a breakdown of occupation per se.

Senator KAKOSCHKE-MOORE: So you would not be able to have a look at the types of professions that the visas went to, only the characteristics of the person who applied?

Mr Wilden: Again, I will defer to Ms Dacey. We may have something that talks in the broad. We do not have—if you were a tennis player, for example—a tennis player occupation necessarily, but we may be able to break it down into sport, science et cetera. We will see what we can do. We will take it on notice.

*Answer:*

The Department is not able to provide the requested data. The Distinguished Talent (subclass 124) visas are not granted on the basis of the field of endeavour but whether or not the applicant meets the criteria in being distinguished. Departmental systems are unable to report on the profession, art, sport or research field of applicants.