

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 19 October 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE15/050) - Departmental figures - Internal Product (DIBP)

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 117) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: The department managed to provide The Australian newspaper on 16 October with the figures for the three months to 30 September. So I would have thought that the figures for June would be available for public release if The Australian can get the departmental figures to 30 September.

Mr Pezzullo: Are you referring to a press report?

Senator KIM CARR: I am referring to a report that cites departmental figures. Mr Pezzullo: We will need to check both the quarterly figures and the annual figures then.

Senator KIM CARR: This is a Sid Maher article in The Australian of 16 October that gives figures for the three months to 30 September. As you know, The Australian is the Liberal Party bible. So I am sure everything in there would have to be accurate! It says that, 'of the 13,239 visas granted under 457 category to the end of September, 3,581 fell below the proposed \$57,000 threshold figure'—which happens to be a Labor Party announcement figure which the departmental figures were conveniently provided to criticise—and the article says that that was 'equivalent to 27 per cent of all visas granted.' Is that true?

Mr Wilden: I have not seen that.

Senator KIM CARR: You have not seen the report?

Mr Wilden: No, I have not seen the report. I am not aware of it.

Senator KIM CARR: So your officers did not provide that information to The Australian?

Mr Wilden: I would have to check what data was provided and when, assuming—

Senator KIM CARR: Would you do that for me?

Mr Wilden: Shall do.

Answer:

The Department can confirm that the figures quoted in The Australian are correct and were provided by the Department following a request from the journalist concerned.