

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 19 October 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE15/056) - 400 Visas - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Canavan, Matthew (L&CA 129) asked:

Senator CANAVAN: There was some discussion earlier about section 400 visas. How long are those visas for?

Mr Wilden: They are generally a three-month visa. The average stay is about 20 days, and the 400 covers a range of activities. I will give—

Senator CANAVAN: I do not need all of those categories. They are for something specific, are they, and very temporary?

Mr Wilden: The purpose is short-term visitors, and we sort of grouped up—it is called the 400 series because there are a whole range of activities within there: sports people, entertainment people et cetera. So I will give you a breakdown of what is included in there, with some statistics on the numbers and length of stay, if that would helpful.

Senator CANAVAN: You could take that on notice, given the time

Answer:

The Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) visa (subclass 400) is an unsponsored visa that allows holders with highly specialised skills, knowledge or experience who can assist Australian business to undertake short term, non-ongoing work, or to participate in non-ongoing cultural or social events at the invitation of an Australian organisation.

The visa is generally granted for up to three months, but may be granted for up to six months where a strong business case is provided. The average length of stay for subclass 400 visas granted in the 2014–15 programme year was 23 days.

In the 2014–15 programme year, 54,688 subclass 400 visas were granted, of which:

- 41,999 were granted in the Highly Specialised Work stream (principally for managers, professionals, technicians and trades workers)
- 12,592 were granted in the Invited Participant stream (principally for cultural and sporting event participants)
- 97 were granted in the Australia's Interest stream (where urgent or compelling circumstances exist).