

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### (SE16/118) - 457 Visas - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

With reference to 457 visas:

What is the current average time taken to process a 457 visa, please include an annual breakdown for each of the past 5 years

How many 457 visas were declined in 2015/16, please include an annual breakdown for each of the past 5 years

How many active sponsors are currently under the program?

How many new sponsors were there in the 2015/16 financial year and how do you monitor these sponsors?

How many of these sponsors are sanctioned?

How many of these sponsors have been formally warned?

How many of these sponsors have received an infringement notice?

How many 457 primary visa holders were in Australia on 30 June 2016, please include an annual breakdown for each of the past 5 years

Please provide a breakdown of people working on 457 visas by:

(a) State, (b) industry group, (c) labour hire company, (d) country of origin.

*Answer:*

*With reference to 457 visas:*

*What is the current average time taken to process a 457 visa, please include annual breakdown for each of the past 5 years?*

Median processing time (calendar days) for subclass 457 primary visa applications decided in 2016–17 to 30 September 2016 – comparison with previous years:

Financial Year	Median Processing Times (calendar days)
2016–17 to 30/09/16	48
2015–16	36
2014–15	22
2013–14	34
2012–13	16

*Note 1: Figures include primary applicants only*

*Note 2: Processing time is based on applications decided in the period (granted or refused).*

*How many 457 visas were declined in 2015–16, please include an annual breakdown for each of the past 5 years.*

Subclass 457 primary visa applications refused between 2012–13 and 2016–17 to 30 September 2016:

Financial Year	Primary Visas Refused
2016–17 to 30/09/16	575
2015–16	2,116
2014–15	1,881
2013–14	3,141
2012–13	2,592

*Note 1: Excludes independent executives.*

*How many active sponsors are currently under the program?*

At 30 September 2016, there were 34,100 active sponsors under the 457 visa programme.

*How many new sponsors were there in the 2015-16 financial year and how do you monitor these sponsors?*

In 2015–16, there were 9,365 new organisations approved as subclass 457 sponsors.

The Department takes an intelligence led, risk-based approach to monitoring sponsors to ensure the sponsored visa holder works only in the nominated occupation, and is paid at least the market salary rate. The Department applies preventative measures through educational visits and sponsor self-audits to improve compliance with obligations. In higher risk cases, the Department will conduct desk-audits and site visits (announced and unannounced) to investigate the relevant aspects of the business.

*How many of these sponsors were sanctioned?*

In 2015–16, 372 sponsors were sanctioned.

*How many of these sponsors have been formally warned?*

In 2015–16, 516 breach notices were issued.

*How many of these sponsors have received an infringement notice?*

In 2015–16, 28 infringement notices were issued.

*How many 457 primary visa holders were in Australia on 30 June 2016, please include an annual breakdown for each of the past 5 years.*

The number of subclass 457 primary visa holders in Australia at 30 June 2016 – comparison with same date in previous years:

Snapshot Date	Total
30/06/2016	94,887
30/06/2015	104,753
30/06/2014	108,869
30/06/2013	107,973
30/06/2012	91,052

*Note 1: Excludes independent executives.*

*Please provide a breakdown of people working on 457 visas by:*

*(a) state, (b) industry group, (c) labour hire company, (d) country of origin.*

A breakdown of subclass 457 visa holders by nominated position location (state), sponsor industry and citizenship country is provided below.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection's systems do not report separately on subclass 457 visa holders who work for labour hire companies and hence, this information is not available.

## Subclass 457 visa holder statistics

1. Subclass 457 primary visa holders in Australia at 30 June 2016 by nominated position location (state) – comparison with same date in previous years:

Nominated Position Location (State)	30/06/12	30/06/13	30/06/14	30/06/15	30/06/16
ACT	1,246	1,329	1,360	1,360	1,188
NSW	31,915	38,427	40,023	40,709	39,769
NT	1,090	1,365	1,651	1,702	1,694
QLD	14,960	17,469	16,948	14,987	12,502
SA	2,691	2,881	3,105	3,091	2,571
TAS	407	450	423	395	415
VIC	18,780	22,413	23,804	24,432	23,473
WA	19,594	23,390	21,403	17,982	13,240
Not Specified	369	249	152	95	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,052</b>	<b>107,973</b>	<b>108,869</b>	<b>104,753</b>	<b>94,887</b>

Note 1: Excludes independent executives.

2. Subclass 457 primary visa holders in Australia at 30 June 2016 by sponsor industry – comparison with same date in previous years:

Sponsor Industry	30/06/12	30/06/13	30/06/14	30/06/15	30/06/16
Accommodation and Food Services	5,268	9,972	13,975	15,606	15,244
Administrative and Support Services	818	908	831	824	701
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	1,566	1,714	1,997	2,175	2,056
Arts and Recreation Services	930	1,060	1,043	973	971
Construction	11,072	13,441	12,334	10,081	7,842
Education and Training	3,739	4,494	4,454	4,376	4,098
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	1,648	2,084	1,851	1,492	1,041
Financial and Insurance Services	4,084	4,157	3,792	3,554	3,498
Health Care and Social Assistance	11,021	11,850	10,566	9,292	8,656
Information Media and Telecommunications	8,404	8,949	8,995	9,860	9,994
Manufacturing	6,442	7,285	7,104	6,577	5,637
Mining	7,617	7,606	6,347	4,391	2,498
Other Services	10,801	13,471	14,226	14,729	13,412
Professional, Scientific and Technical	8,258	9,083	8,711	8,961	9,500
Public Administration and Safety	768	808	561	426	303
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	1,157	838	778	755	660
Retail Trade	3,297	4,977	5,920	5,802	4,926
Transport Postal and Warehousing	1,391	1,901	2,097	1,931	1,554
Wholesale Trade	1,777	2,355	2,626	2,460	2,093
Not Specified	994	1,020	661	488	203
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,052</b>	<b>107,973</b>	<b>108,869</b>	<b>104,753</b>	<b>94,887</b>

Note 1: Excludes independent executives.

Note 2: Sponsor industry is self-identified

3. Subclass 457 primary visa holders in Australia at 30 June 2016 by citizenship country – comparison with same date in previous years:

Citizenship Country	30/06/12	30/06/13	30/06/14	30/06/15	30/06/16
Afghanistan	<5	0	5	7	8
Albania	17	9	11	15	17
Algeria	8	9	11	10	5
Andorra	<5	<5	0	0	<5
Angola	<5	0	0	0	0
Antigua and Barbuda	0	0	<5	<5	<5
Argentina	94	120	134	174	190
Armenia	<5	<5	5	<5	7
Austria	170	174	170	161	144
Azerbaijan	<5	6	6	6	5
Bahamas	<5	<5	<5	<5	0
Bahrain	<5	<5	0	0	0
Bangladesh	259	534	749	788	688
Barbados	0	<5	<5	5	<5
Belarus	10	14	15	12	15
Belgium	315	417	361	278	247
Belize	0	0	<5	0	<5
Bhutan	0	0	<5	<5	12
Bolivia	12	10	10	7	<5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	12	10	8	8	10
Botswana	51	45	27	24	20
Brazil	1,126	1,187	1,093	1,194	1,255
Brunei Darussalam	31	23	15	13	7
Bulgaria	26	36	35	43	49
Cabo Verde	0	<5	<5	0	0
Cambodia	11	19	25	31	34
Cameroon	8	7	8	7	6
Canada	2,445	2,486	2,354	2,068	1,781
Chad	<5	<5	<5	0	0
Chile	198	219	194	169	170
China, Peoples Republic of (excl SARs)	3,518	4,831	6,014	7,016	6,903
Colombia	334	430	496	505	479
Comoros	0	0	0	<5	<5
Congo, Dem Republic of The	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Congo, Republic of	<5	5	<5	<5	<5
Costa Rica	8	8	10	10	9
Cote d'Ivoire	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Croatia	86	80	66	61	61
Cuba	<5	<5	<5	5	5
Cyprus	7	17	24	29	25
Czech Republic	154	181	168	178	180
Denmark	207	222	195	153	158
Dominican Republic	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Ecuador	14	12	5	11	14
Egypt	161	170	181	182	155
El Salvador	6	5	5	6	6
Eritrea	<5	<5	<5	0	0

Estonia	69	86	125	170	157
Ethiopia	<5	5	<5	5	<5
Fiji	237	260	253	222	199
Finland	165	119	119	136	134
France	2,077	2,265	2,280	2,429	2,420
FYR Macedonia	28	29	44	39	40
Gabon	<5	<5	<5	<5	0
Georgia	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Germany, Fed Republic of	2,098	2,052	1,795	1,667	1,507
Ghana	80	76	65	50	32
Greece	110	189	232	256	265
Grenada	0	0	0	<5	<5
Guatemala	5	10	<5	6	10
Guinea	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Guyana	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Haiti	<5	0	0	0	0
Honduras	<5	<5	6	<5	<5
Hong Kong (SAR of the PRC)	205	286	361	467	521
Hungary	150	183	187	186	188
Iceland	11	6	7	10	10
India	12,326	16,958	19,734	21,161	19,667
Indonesia	736	857	941	913	836
Iran	380	410	453	433	417
Iraq	35	43	35	28	31
Ireland, Republic of	9,309	12,420	11,114	8,439	6,050
Israel	193	204	196	160	159
Italy	1,138	1,609	1,910	2,296	2,645
Jamaica	19	18	11	11	6
Japan	1,623	1,758	1,831	1,860	1,925
Jordan	44	43	41	49	55
Kazakhstan	17	27	27	31	28
Kenya	95	122	123	111	102
Kiribati	5	6	<5	7	6
Korea, North	<5	<5	<5	<5	0
Korea, South	1,327	2,072	2,491	2,594	2,355
Kosovo	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Kuwait	<5	0	<5	<5	<5
Kyrgyzstan	0	<5	<5	<5	<5
Lao Peoples Dem Republic	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Latvia	18	28	16	14	13
Lebanon	128	170	213	249	237
Liberia	0	0	<5	<5	0
Libya	10	12	9	9	7
Liechtenstein	0	<5	<5	<5	<5
Lithuania	41	39	38	45	51
Luxembourg	<5	5	5	<5	6
Macau Special Admin Region	<5	6	<5	7	8
Madagascar	<5	0	<5	<5	<5
Malawi	7	9	8	7	9
Malaysia	1,578	1,460	1,449	1,386	1,327
Maldives	<5	5	<5	5	9
Mali	<5	0	0	<5	<5

Malta	31	36	32	25	22
Mauritius	200	294	322	326	274
Mexico	145	154	170	171	158
Moldova	9	7	6	5	<5
Monaco	<5	0	<5	0	0
Mongolia	18	13	<5	8	8
Montenegro	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Morocco	7	9	7	8	7
Mozambique	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Myanmar	138	116	120	129	130
Namibia	12	14	12	6	<5
Nauru	9	<5	<5	<5	<5
Nepal	582	1,397	2,052	2,186	1,943
Netherlands Antilles	<5	<5	0	0	0
Netherlands, Kingdom of The	906	927	865	863	743
New Zealand	27	34	37	35	28
Nicaragua	0	0	0	0	<5
Niger	0	<5	<5	<5	0
Nigeria	148	148	125	129	135
Norway	122	126	130	120	102
Oman	6	<5	<5	<5	<5
Pakistan	592	774	901	967	887
Palau	0	0	0	0	<5
Palestinian Authority	13	12	9	10	10
Panama	<5	<5	6	<5	<5
Papua New Guinea	294	281	224	175	109
Paraguay	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Peru	117	124	130	119	100
Philippines	6,833	8,022	8,074	7,193	6,062
Poland	299	372	398	416	407
Portugal	190	247	234	236	242
Republic of South Sudan	0	<5	<5	0	<5
Romania	122	125	129	119	94
Russian Federation	217	271	264	283	302
Saint Lucia	0	<5	<5	<5	0
Samoa	10	9	9	11	7
Saudi Arabia	17	13	14	7	11
Senegal	5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Serbia	49	69	57	58	59
Serbia and Montenegro	<5	<5	0	0	0
Seychelles	5	6	7	7	<5
Sierra Leone	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Singapore	604	580	623	611	574
Slovakia	101	142	150	151	153
Slovenia	44	51	56	54	69
Solomon Islands	12	8	12	13	9
Somalia	<5	<5	<5	0	0
South Africa	2,680	2,436	1,979	1,623	1,434
Spain	513	661	698	693	710
Sri Lanka	562	701	791	869	834
St Kitts and Nevis	<5	<5	<5	0	<5
Stateless Person	<5	<5	<5	0	0

Sudan	9	16	18	17	16
Suriname	<5	<5	<5	<5	0
Swaziland	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Sweden	344	365	336	315	295
Switzerland	235	239	194	196	204
Syrian Arab Republic	23	33	35	28	26
Taiwan	208	321	378	463	536
Tajikistan	0	0	<5	<5	<5
Tanzania	23	18	19	12	8
Thailand	391	696	901	951	956
Timor-Leste	<5	<5	5	9	6
Togo	0	<5	<5	0	0
Tonga	20	22	16	16	7
Trinidad and Tobago	46	71	63	44	30
Tunisia	10	14	14	7	<5
Turkey	163	213	244	239	213
Turkmenistan	0	<5	<5	0	0
Tuvalu	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Uganda	16	8	5	8	21
Ukraine	109	132	143	162	161
United Arab Emirates	<5	6	11	7	7
United Kingdom	23,420	25,611	22,750	19,820	17,181
United States of America	5,637	5,686	5,215	4,732	3,995
Uruguay	5	10	9	10	9
Uzbekistan	19	13	17	13	16
Vanuatu	<5	<5	<5	<5	9
Venezuela	80	97	108	109	101
Vietnam	555	572	789	989	1,104
Yemen, Republic of	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Yugoslavia, Fed Republic of	<5	0	0	0	0
Zambia	72	89	76	53	31
Zimbabwe	372	336	262	212	149
Not Specified	<5	0	0	<5	<5
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,052</b>	<b>107,973</b>	<b>108,869</b>	<b>104,753</b>	<b>94,887</b>

Note 1: Excludes independent executives.