

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### **(SE16/124) - Working Holiday Maker Visas - Programme 2.3: Visas**

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

In relation to Working Holiday Makers (WHM) Visas

How many investigations has the Fair Work Ombudsman conducted into the employers in the 15/16 financial year?

How many complaints were made by visa holders to DIBP regarding treatment of employers in 15/16? Please include a breakdown over the past five years annual.

Please provide an update on WHM visa applications and granted visas (subclass 417 and 462)?

Has there been an increase applications and approvals for this class in 15/16?

What is the trend of applications and approvals over the last three years?

When did DIBP first become aware of the recent changes (September 2016) to the WHM Visas?

How does DIBP anticipate demand for WHV visas will change as a result of the proposed changes to WHVs and the backpacker tax?

Was DIBP consulted on the WHV tax changes?

How do you currently track where individuals on these visas are working?

Do the changes to the WHM Visas mean that you will be able to track where individuals on these visas are working and if so how?

Where will this information be published?

Please provide the total expenditure of a WHV maker during their stay and the estimates total average amount that a WHM earns during their stay in Australia?

What is the total number of jobs held by a WHM Visa holders?

Please provide a breakdown of people working on 417 and 462 visas by country of origin.

*Answer:*

*In relation to Working Holiday Makers (WHM) Visas*

*How many investigations has the Fair Work Ombudsman conducted into the employers in the 15/16 financial year?*

This is a matter for the Fair Work Ombudsman.

*How many complaints were made by visa holders to DIBP regarding treatment of employers in 15/16? Please include a breakdown over the past five years annual.*

The Department does not keep specific records on individual complaints raised in relation to this matter. The Department, however, does advise clients to contact the Fair Work Ombudsman if the issue relates to employment conditions or remuneration.

*Please provide an update on WHM visa applications and granted visas (subclass 417 and 462)?*

The total number of WHM visas lodged and granted by subclass and programme year is provided in the following tables:

**Table 1 – Working Holiday Maker visas lodged in 2016-17 to 30 September 2016 – comparison with previous years**

*Note 1: Subclass 417 includes first and second visa*

Visa Subclass	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2015–16 to 30/09/15	2016–17 to 30/09/16
417 Working Holiday	231,685	219,123	200,271	60,051	57,939
462 Work and Holiday	10,365	12,267	19,604	5,020	7,270
<b>Total</b>	<b>242,050</b>	<b>231,390</b>	<b>219,875</b>	<b>65,071</b>	<b>65,209</b>

**Table 2 – Working Holiday Maker visas granted in 2016-17 to 30 September 2016 – comparison with previous years**

*Note 1: Subclass 417 includes first and second visa*

Visa Subclass	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2015–16 to 30/09/15	2016–17 to 30/09/16
417 Working Holiday	229,378	214,830	195,673	58,960	55,586
462 Work and Holiday	10,214	11,982	18,910	4,507	6,764
<b>Total</b>	<b>239,592</b>	<b>226,812</b>	<b>214,583</b>	<b>63,467</b>	<b>62,350</b>

*Has there been an increase applications and approvals for this class in 15/16?*

The number of Working Holiday visa (subclass 417) applications lodged from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, which includes first and second subclass 417 visa applications, was 200,271. This compares to 219,123 subclass 417 applications lodged in the same period of the 2014–15 programme year.

The number of Work and Holiday visa (subclass 462) applications lodged from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 was 19,604. This compares to 12,267 subclass 462 applications lodged in the same period of the 2014–15 programme year.

The number of Working Holiday visas (subclass 417) granted from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, which includes first and second subclass 417 visa grants, was 195,673. This compares to 214,830 subclass 417 applications granted in the same period of the 2014–15 programme year.

The number of Work and Holiday visas (subclass 462) granted from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 was 18,910. This compares to 11,982 subclass 462 applications granted in the same period of the 2014–15 programme year.

*What is the trend of applications and approvals over the last three years?*

As per Table 1, the number of Working Holiday visa (subclass 417) applications lodged in the 2015–16 programme year decreased by 13.6 per cent when compared to the

2013–14 programme year, whereas the number of Work and Holiday visa (subclass 462) applications lodged for the same comparison period increased by 89.1 per cent.

As per Table 2, the number of Working Holiday (subclass 417) visas granted in the 2015–16 programme year decreased by 14.7 per cent when compared to the 2013–14 programme year, whereas the number of Working Holiday (subclass 462) visas granted for the same comparison period increased by 85.1 per cent.

These decreases must be taken in the context of significant growth in the WHM programme over the last decade.

*When did DIBP first become aware of the recent changes (September 2016) to the WHM Visas?*

DIBP was represented on a taskforce established and led by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources that contributed to the deliberations of Cabinet.

*How does DIBP anticipate demand for WHV visas will change as a result of the proposed changes to WHVs and the backpacker tax?*

For budget purposes, Departmental forecasts for visa lodgements and estimated volumes are generally based on a range of factors including medium-term historical demand rather than specific policy changes.

The decline in WHM visa applications over recent years predates the Government's announcements regarding the taxation of WHMs. While the overall trend has been down, some nationalities have declined while others have increased. This reflects that WHMs' decisions about whether to have a working holiday in Australia are driven by a range of economic and other factors.

*Was DIBP consulted on the WHV tax changes?*

Yes.

*How do you currently track where individuals on these visas are working?*

There is no requirement for Working Holiday Makers to report their employment details to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

*Do the changes to the WHM Visas mean that you will be able to track where individuals on these visas are working and if so how?*

Questions regarding the WHM employer register announced by the Treasurer as part of the WHM reform package on 27 September 2016 should be directed to the Australian Taxation Office.

*Where will this information be published?*

Questions regarding the WHM employer register announced by the Treasurer as part of the WHM reform package on 27 September 2016 should be directed to the Australian Taxation Office.

*Please provide the total expenditure of a WHV maker during their stay and the estimates total average amount that a WHM earns during their stay in Australia?*

This information is not available as there is no requirement for Working Holiday Makers to report their expenditure or total earnings during their stay in Australia.

*What is the total number of jobs held by a WHM Visa holders?*

This information is not available as there is no requirement for Working Holiday Makers to report the number of jobs held during their stay in Australia.

*Please provide a breakdown of people working on 417 and 462 visas by country of origin.*

On 30 September 2016, there were 138,029 Working Holiday Makers in Australia. A breakdown of this total by visa subclass and citizenship is provided below.

There is no requirement for Working Holiday Makers to report their employment status to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.

**Table 3 – Subclass 417 visa holders in Australia at 30 September 2016 by citizenship country**

Source: Department of Immigration and Border Protection, 2016 (BE10350.03)

Citizenship Country	30/09/16
United Kingdom	26,970
Taiwan	17,439
Korea, South	16,078
Germany, Fed Republic of	13,682
France	12,334
Japan	9,196
Italy	7,579
Ireland, Republic of	4,947
Hong Kong (SAR of the PRC)	4,367
Canada	4,211
Netherlands, Kingdom of The	2,889
Sweden	1,921
Belgium	1,291
Estonia	1,115
Finland	915
Denmark	789
Norway	303
Malta	59
Cyprus	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>126,118</b>

**Table 4 – Subclass 462 visa holders in Australia at 30 September 2016 by citizenship country**

Source: Department of Immigration and Border Protection, 2016 (BE10350.04)

Citizenship Country	30/09/16
United States of America	4,626
China, Peoples Republic of (excl SARs)	2,860
Chile	1,470
Indonesia	645
Argentina	550
Spain	503
Thailand	430
Israel	194
Portugal	163
Poland	143
Malaysia	81
Turkey	81
Uruguay	80
Slovakia	34
Bangladesh	29
Slovenia	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,911</b>