

Senate Standing Committee on Economics**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 October 2011

Question: SR18
Topic: Number of Overseas Workers in the Mining Industry
Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Cameron asked:

In answer to question BR9 from the 2011 Budget estimates the Department indicated that there were 3020 s.457 visa workers in the mining industry to April 2011.

1. Can the Department provide a breakdown of the occupations in which these workers are employed?
2. Does the Department have any updated estimates of the number of s.457 workers that will be employed in the mining industry in 2011-12 and the occupations in which they will be employed?

Answer:

1. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) has advised the Department the following breakdown of occupations for workers with subclass 457 visas, for the full 2010-11 program year.

Subclass 457 primary visa granted in 2010-11 where the sponsor industry (self identified) is mining – Top 10 Occupations

Nominated Occupation ¹	Total ²
234411 Geologist	430
712211 Driller	190
233612 Petroleum Engineer	170
312512 Mechanical Engineering Technician	170
133211 Engineering Manager	160
233611 Mining Engineer (excluding Petroleum)	150
139999 Specialist Managers nec ³	140
233512 Mechanical Engineer	130
323211 Fitter (General)	90
233211 Civil Engineer	80
Other Occupations	1940
Total	3 650

Source: Department of Immigration and Citizenship, 2011 (BE4551.01)

Note 1: occupations are classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO)

Note 2: Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10

Note 3: not elsewhere classified in ANZSCO

DIAC's Statistics Management Unit provided data on the top 10 occupations. DIAC advises that they cannot provide further detail due to the risk of disclosing confidential information.

2. The Department does not have estimates for the 2011-12 financial year of the number of workers with subclass 457 visas in the mining industry or the occupations in which they will be employed. Australia's temporary skilled migration (subclass 457 visa) program is an uncapped, demand-driven, sponsored visa. This means that the number of temporary overseas workers that will arrive will depend on the number of vacancies that exist that cannot be filled by local labour.