

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(130) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Ludwig asked:

The following questions relate to 456 and 457 visas:

1. How many such visas are currently valid?
2. How many times in the last 12 months has an employer replaced a 456/457 visa holder with another 456/457 visa holder within the period of one month?
3. What is the breakdown by postcode of business currently employing holders of 456 and 457 visas?
4. What is the breakdown by postcode of holders of 456 and 457 visas?
5. How many different positions have individuals on such visas held during the life of the visa?
6. How many different workplaces have individuals on such visas worked at during the life of the visa?

Answer:

1. There were 185,660 visas granted for Subclass 456 in 2005-06.

There were 39,530 primary Subclass 457 visas (excluding Independent Executives) granted in 2005-06 and a further 31,620 secondary subclass 457 visas.

2. Subclass 456 visas are primarily used by business people who need to make short trips to Australia, and they do not require a business to sponsor a visa holder. Most 456 visa holders stay in Australia for less than 20 days after attending conferences, business meetings etc in various parts of Australia.

The Department is not able to provide statistics on the number of times an employer has replaced a Subclass 457 visa holder within the period of one month.

3. See answer to part 2 regarding 456 visas.

The following table details the top 50 postcodes of nominated positions for visas granted under the Subclass 457 programme in 2005-06. Please note that postcode information can be misleading as it could relate to a range of different circumstances of where and how companies operate.

4. See answer to part 2 regarding 456 visas.

The following table details the top 50 postcodes of nominated positions for visas granted under the Subclass 457 programme in 2005-06. Please note that postcode information can be misleading as it could relate to a range of different circumstances of where and how companies operate.

5. See answer to part 2 regarding 456 visas.

The Department does not specifically track this but notes that a longitudinal survey by Professor Peter McDonald found that 16 per cent of survey respondents had changed employers.¹

6. See answer to part 2 regarding 456 visas.

The Department does not maintain this information.

¹ Khoo S, McDonald P and Hugo G. August 2006. *Temporary Skilled Migrants' Employment and Residence Outcomes: Findings from the follow-up survey of 457 visa holders.*