

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(192) Output 1.3: Enforcement of Immigration Law**

Senator Carr asked:

What overall figures or estimates can the Department provide for the numbers of non-citizens or other persons currently working in Australia in any way in breach of their visa conditions, under other arrangements that contravene the *Migration Act* and/or on expired visas? Please provide these to the Committee. Can DIMA comment on the estimate of approximately 60,000 persons falling into these categories?

*Answer:*

At 31 December 2005, DIMA estimates that there were around 46,400 overstayers in Australia. It is likely that a significant number of these people are working illegally in order to support themselves. Additionally, some people who hold current visas may be working in breach of the no work or limited work conditions of their visas.

It is not possible to accurately estimate the total number of non-citizens who are working illegally. DIMA directs its endeavours into actively working with other government departments, licensing authorities and industry and employer groups to prevent non-citizens working illegally and to locating and resolving the status of those persons it discovers to be working illegally.

From 1 July 2005 to 31 May 2006, the Department's systems record a total of 1,717 overstayers and persons in breach of their visa conditions located working illegally in Australia.