

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(72) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Further to evidence at the hearing, please provide statistics in relation to skilled migrants granted permanent visas over the past five years, including their ongoing employment levels.

Answer:

The table below details the outcomes of the skilled migration program over the last five years.

Program Year	Grants
2004-2005	77 878
2005-2006	97 336
2006-2007	97 922
2007-2008	108 540
2008-2009	114 777

There is no current data available on the economic outcomes of skilled migrants. The Department has therefore used data from the third *Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia* (LSIA) to respond to this question. The LSIA collected information from migrants who had either arrived in Australia, or been granted a permanent visa between December 2004 and March 2005.

In July 2005, at approximately the six month settlement stage, 9 per cent of skilled migrants were unemployed and their participation rate was 93 per cent. Twelve months later, at the 18 month settlement stage, their unemployment rate had fallen to 3 per cent and their participation rate had increased to 94 per cent.

The Department is currently undertaking a new survey, the *Continuous Survey of Australia's Migrants*, which will provide more up to date information on the economic outcomes of skilled and family stream entrants. The first results of this survey will be released in early 2010. Information about this survey is available on the Department's website.