

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0416) PROGRAMME – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator the Hon Lisa Singh (L&CA 54) asked:

Senator SINGH: Could we get an update on the changes to 457 visa applications? I appreciate that the changes have not been in place for long and you could take this on notice if you do not have it, but how many applications have been received and how many have been declined owing to the requirement that a genuine skill-need is demonstrated? I understand there were 32 department inspectors appointed, under the Migration Act, to monitor that compliance. How many of those inspectors are there, now that officers from both this department and Fair Work may be inspectors?

Mr Fleming: Probably on the 457 application and decision statistics, since the changes were introduced, that will be a short period, so it will probably be easier if I take those on notice and give them in writing.

Answer:

26 592 nomination applications were lodged between 1 July 2013 and 30 November 2013.

966 nomination applications were refused between 1 July 2013 and 30 November 2013. The department is not able to report on the number of nomination applications refused on the basis that the decision maker was not satisfied that a genuine skill need was demonstrated.

As at 30 November 2013, there were 46 inspectors appointed under the Migration Act 1958 and 298 Fair Work Inspectors authorised to monitor compliance with sponsorship obligations.