

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Inquiry into Australia's Skilled Migration Program

25 June 2021

QoN Number: 22

Subject: TSMIT review

Asked by: Julian Leeson

Question:

CHAIR: That's helpful, thank you. The final question from me, and I know it's an issue that Mr Hill will take up with you too, is I want to try to understand why the government hasn't raised the TSMIT. Can you explain?

Mr Willard: TSMIT is 53,900. I think that figure has been in place since 1 July 2013. Ultimately, determining the level of TSMIT is a matter for government consideration. The mechanism to change the TSMIT is well established.

CHAIR: You had the Azarius review, I understand. What's the current status of the Azarius review? Has the government responded to it?

Mr Willard: I can't remember exactly when the report was provided; it was last year, from memory.

Mr Kefford: It was 2016.

CHAIR: Not the agriculture one, no; the Azarius one on the TSMIT.

Mr Willard: Mr Azarius is very prolific, so it is the 2016 review of TSMIT.

CHAIR: Has the government responded to the Azarius review?

Mr Willard: I will have to take it on notice. I believe it's being considered..

Answer:

- The Review of the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT): The Future of TSMIT within a Robust 457 Programme (the TSMIT Review) Report was released on 24 February 2017.
- The review was considered in the context of the reforms to skilled migration that came into effect in 2017 and 2018

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Inquiry into Australia's Skilled Migration Program

25 June 2021

QoN Number: 23

Subject: Wage impact/growth

Asked by: Julian Hill

Question:

Mr HILL: I didn't ask about the skills program. I have read the Bankwest report; I asked about the temporary skilled program. I'll put a couple of facts up front. I have no issue whatsoever with the proposition that, in aggregate, a skilled migration program grows the economy—tick. good. The question then becomes: what are the components to maximise growth and make sure that we're putting upwards pressure, not downwards pressure, on wages? That's the policy responsibilities that presumably you acknowledge that you have. So my question is about what is the impact on Australian wages of the temporary skilled migration program, which, as we know, sits in a whole range of particular categories?

Mr Kefford: I can't think here of an individual study that's been done into all of those but I would take on notice what we do have about where those impacts flow from. Presumably you're talking about the other temporary visa holders that have work rights as well. Are you going to that part as well, so not just the strictly temporary skilled program, but, say, for students, because there is obviously an impact on the economy.

Mr HILL: I'm interested in your view in terms of the context but also the TSS program, so both aspects. I could go and ask the Library, and I have, and I could do a Google search, but I'm asking you as the senior person responsible for policy in this area: what analysis does your department do and what analysis can you point to in terms of the impact on wages of the programs that you run?

Mr Kefford: Mr Hill, as I said, we're happy to take on notice what—

Mr HILL: But have you done any analysis? Is there anything that you're aware of in the last eight years in your department that looked at the impact on Australian wages of the programs that you run?

Mr Kefford: Mr Hill, as I said, we will take on notice what we have. I don't know going back eight years exactly what we have done.

.....

Mr HILL: We recommended them; it didn't work very well, but you've got to give it a go! I'll finish there on the TSMIT; I think I've made my point. You can take it on notice. I'm very happy to receive anything that suggests you've done any analysis on wages. I haven't found a single bureaucrat so far in this whole magical meandering inquiry that can point to a single piece of analysis that we've done on the impact on wages. I'll just note, in relation to the commentary before, in the discussion before about market wages: explicitly, John Azarias well documents the policy purpose of

the TSMIT. The TSMIT was intended as a wage floor and is not meant to have any bearing on market wage rates, the minimum salaries, in addition to the relevant award and enterprise agreements. I just put that on the record. I think some of the slightly weird commentary we'd heard from some of our submitters that, 'Oh well, we can just kind of deregulate it and go to the award'—that would be economic craziness. If you have a look at what the Reserve Bank governor and everyone else is saying, we'd just be opening up the Australian labour market to whatever the prevailing global conditions were. Anyway, in your own sense, you might want to give some thought to the policy purpose of the TSMIT, which was to protect low paid Australian workers.

Answer:

Studies of the Australian economy have consistently found no statistically significant relationship between wage growth and immigration (including the temporary skilled migration program).

The Productivity Commission advised in its 2016 *Migrant Intake into Australia* report that, overall, the effect of migration on labour markets depends in theory on a range of factors including the increased demand for goods and services associated with a growing population due to migration. As part of its 2016 inquiry, research commissioned by the Productivity Commission found that overall, there is little evidence that the labour market outcomes of Australian-born workers are negatively related to immigration.

The Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) in its 2019 *Effects of temporary migration* report used modelling of ABS data to show that recently arrived migrants have not had a negative impact on the wages or participation rates of Australian-born workers. In some cases, an increase in migrant concentrations in certain levels of qualification and experience is associated with a positive impact on wages and employment.

Temporary skilled visa holders must be paid the annual market salary rate (AMSR) as per the relevant fair work instrument, state industrial instrument or transitional instrument, unless their annual earning is over \$250,000. The AMSR cannot be lower than the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT), currently \$53,900. This helps to ensure that overseas workers are not paid less than what an Australian worker would be paid, doing the same work in the same location.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Inquiry into Australia's Skilled Migration Program

25 June 2021

QoN Number: 24

Subject: TSMIT - bureaucratic process

Asked by: Julian Hill

Question:

Mr HILL: The chair touched on earlier the TSMIT. The TSMIT has been frozen, as you acknowledged, since 1 July 2013. That's the minimum salary that anyone in the country can bring in a temporary skilled worker on. What's the process for making that? Is it an annual determination?

Mr Kefford: I think we've already said it's ultimately a decision for the government as part of managing the program.

Mr HILL: My understanding is it's a decision of the minister. I'm just trying to understand. When you say 'government', is that a matter that might be considered more collectively across the government? I thought it was a ministerial responsibility. I'm saying that because the department of employment told us they have a role in advising the minister for immigration, your minister, who makes this decision. Is it a conscious decision? Is it a statutory requirement in the legislation? Is it something that you might just remember one day if it pops into your mind? What's the bureaucratic process by which this important decision is made? You're responsible for it.

Mr Kefford: Indeed. There are a number of decisions, like PMSOL, where, while the final decision is made by the minister exercising his statutory power, there are other government processes that sit behind that.

Mr HILL: Sure.

Mr Kefford: In relation to this particular one, what my colleague said is right. At the end of the day the minister for immigration has the power to do that.

Mr HILL: Is that an annual review? Is it something your department automatically does? I've worked in the migration portfolio in a state government. I kind of get the bureaucracy. Ministers tend not to do everything themselves. You send bits of paper up. Things like this that are statutory requirements usually have a workflow or a program around them. Is this decision made consciously every 12 months, less often or more often?

Mr Willard: The power to set the TSMIT is under the migration regulations and it's set through a legislative instrument. There's no provision in the migration regulations that goes to the frequency of review or assessment of the TSMIT.

Mr HILL: That's helpful. Therefore, it was frozen from 1 July. How many times—and you're probably going to have to take this on notice—has a conscious review been done into this?

Mr Kefford: We will take that on notice.

Mr HILL: How many times has the department consciously provided advice to the minister and how many times has the minister requested advice? Both of those might be the same or they may be different things.

Mr Kefford: I'm happy to take that on notice.

Answer:

- The Department's advice to Government on this matter was closely related to the Cabinet process. In accordance with longstanding practice, the Department of Home Affairs does not disclose information about the deliberations of the Cabinet.
- Reforms announced by the Government on 18 April 2017, which included replacing the Subclass 457 (Temporary Work (Skilled) visa with the Subclass 482 (Temporary Skill Shortage) visa were informed by the 2017 TSMIT Review.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Inquiry into Australia's skilled migration program

25 June 2021

QoN Number: 25

Subject: Citizenship applications

Asked by: Julian Hill

Question:

Mr HILL:

With regard to pathways to permanency, as you acknowledged to the chair there's a significant difference between permanent residency and citizenship. People, I think, quite rightly, aspire to citizenship, and indeed we as a country should encourage them to make that commitment if they're here.

What's the justification for the very significant fee increases in citizenship fees announced today by the minister?

Mr Kefford: That's not something that sits in my area of responsibility. I'm happy to take it on notice to provide that answer. But it's not something with which those of us at the table have involvement.

Mr HILL: Can you also take on notice what the projected impact on the huge and growing backlog of citizenship applications might be?

Mr Kefford: I'm happy to take that on notice. I think you'll find that the number of on-hand cases has been reducing rather than growing, certainly in recent times.

Mr HILL: It went down from 255,000; I think it peaked before the last election—it is a conspiracy theory that that was run up so people couldn't vote—and they got it back down to about 100,000, but it's now climbed back up to about 150,000 in the last few months, and it is climbing.

Mr Kefford: I'm happy to take those numbers on notice. Again, it's not something that's in my particular area. I note that Mr Hawke has made a press release in connection with the announcement that sets out the—.

Answer:

This is the first change to citizenship application fees since 2016. Fees have been determined by citizenship application processing costs. The new fees are commensurate with the comprehensive approach to end-to-end processing of citizenship applications and reflect inflation costs, staffing costs and the increased complexity of applications, which take longer to process. Pre-1 July 2021, fees were recovering only around 50 per cent of the cost of processing the applications.

The Department of Home Affairs continues to identify ways to increase the efficiency of the Citizenship Program and lower wait times for applicants. Over 159,000 applications for citizenship by conferral were lodged in the 2020-21 financial year to 31 May 2021. This is an increase of 21 per cent over the same period in 2019-20. Despite this, the number of on-hand applications has been steadily declining since COVID-19 impacted processing in 2020.

The Department's website is updated monthly with the number of applications on-hand and processing times, see:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/citizenship/citizenship-processing-times>.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Inquiry into Australia's Skilled Migration Program

25 June 2021

QoN Number: 26

Subject: Stakeholder critiques

Asked by: Julian Hill

Question:

Mr HILL: Sure. But the second part is where I think the Grattan Institute were probably healthily sceptical, if I can frame what they said a little. They were disagreeing not with the policy fundamentals, broadly—you can have a bit of argument about some of the parameters or criteria—but with the complete opaqueness, the lack of any transparency about what you're actually achieving. No-one actually has any line of sight—I'm happy to be corrected—as to whether these people get a job, remain in employment or invest a single dollar. What evaluation are you doing on those issues, and what's the program evaluation strategy? I'd like to be persuaded otherwise. I actually would. I think this is good, essentially.

Mr Kefford: I'm happy to agree to provide a detailed answer on notice rather than trying to give it all to you now. But I think what we are conscious of—and it's evident in the fact that there are quite significant changes to the complying investment framework and so on, which are to commence in the next few days—is that we are continuing to look at where the funds are being invested and whether the funds that come with these visas are having the desired effect in terms of boosting availability of funds for these sorts of programs. The fact that we're changing shows that we're continuing to look at it. I'm happy to provide you with the detail behind that.

Mr Willard: Mr Kefford is referring to work in respect of the Business Innovation and Investment Program. I take a more 'mechanics of visa decision-making' view to it, and you're referring to the global talent independent program. The different programs all have different purposes within our skilled migration system. You described before that there's a human capital component, and there's a labour market demand driven component, being the employer sponsored component. The human capital component includes GTI. It also includes various state and territory nominated schemes and points tested schemes, and, indeed, a business innovation and investment program. The GTI simply doesn't have those requirements around depositing funds or, indeed, being in particular occupations. We assess it in the same way we assess all of the visas that we assess against the Migration Regulations. The specific regulations that the vast majority of GTI are assessed against have been around for at least 25 years. In terms of the way we assess those regulations, we apply the same approach we do broadly to every other set of

regulations that might ask us, for example, to look at whether or not a spousal relationship is genuine, whether there's a genuine intent to study, or whether there's a genuine visitor intent. So we provide procedural instructions and guidance to our officers about how they should assess those requirements. That goes into great detail about what they need to look at, what judgements they need to make, and how they can make judgements. The question of international renown is a key question in that visa, so there's guidance on how that works. We provide that advice in the same way we provide that advice to our officers and through procedural instructions. As with every other visa process, we have a series of quality controls in place to make sure decision making is consistent with that advice—

Mr HILL: I get that. If you can take that on notice, and give us more detail, that's good and fair.

Answer:

Response to Grattan Institute's critique of the BIIP

- The Department acknowledges Grattan Institute's recent report entitled 'Rethinking permanent skilled migration after the pandemic', and the work of other academics and research organisations.
- The Department is not obligated to formally respond to the recommendations in private sector reports.
- Australia's Business Innovation and Investment program (BIIP) targets migrants who have a demonstrated history of success or talent in innovation, investment and business and are able to make a significant contribution to the national innovation system and the Australian economy.
- Many fiscal modellings only consider income tax paid, not business and investment earnings and activities, and therefore lower the apparent economic contribution of BIIP migrants.
- BIIP migrants are expected to be job multipliers instead of participants in the Australian labour market. They contribute to the Australian economy by providing employment opportunities for Australians and supporting the Australian innovation ecosystem. They help inject additional funds into the Australian economy including into higher risk investments that support emerging enterprises, the commercialisation of Australian ideas, and research and development which is a key aspect of economic recovery.
- For every 1,000 BIIP visa places (primary and secondary) filled, the benefit to Australia is on average:
 - \$206.7 million in direct investment (through managed funds and bonds).
 - More than \$187 million in assets transferred to Australia to support the development of businesses.
 - More than 290 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs supported (in order to transition from a provisional to a permanent visa, Business Innovation visa holders must meet certain criteria, one of which can include employing two Australian citizens or permanent residents).

- The age limit for BIIIP visas is more flexible than other skilled migration visas, as the productive phase and social and economic benefits of these migrants differ from other skilled migrants. This is because the focus of the BIIIP is on investment and business experience, and the potential for innovation.
- On 19 May 2021, Minister Hawke announced further changes from 1 July 2021 to the BIIIP, entitled 'Getting a better deal for Australia from visa investments', in addition to those announced on 17 December 2020.
 - These changes seek to create more Australian jobs, promote the growth of key sectors and support Australia's economic bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - These changes were informed by the BIIIP review in 2020, and a second round of consultations that took place in early 2021.

Nominating organisations/businesses with associated primary applicant Global Talent visa application from 1 July 2019 to 29 June 2021	
Nominating organisation/business	Number of visa lodgements
AUSTRALIAN COMPUTER SOCIETY INCORPORATED	87
MONASH UNIVERSITY	61
UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES	53
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY	25
ATLASSIAN PTY LTD	20
COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA	20
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE	20
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND	20
RIO TINTO LIMITED	18
ROYAL MELBOURNE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	18
THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE	16
SOUTH32 LIMITED	15
COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION	10
MICROSOFT PTY LTD	10
TELETHON KIDS INSTITUTE	10
GOOGLE AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	9
IMC PACIFIC PTY LTD	8
NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK LIMITED	8
AUSTRALIAN TRADE AND INVESTMENT COMMISSION	7
CURTIN UNIVERSITY	7
DELOITTE SERVICES PTY LTD	7
FINTECH AUSTRALIA LIMITED	7
WOODSIDE ENERGY LIMITED	7
BHP GROUP LIMITED	6
FLINDERS UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	6
MCKINSEY PACIFIC RIM, INC	6
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY	6
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA	6
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY	5
CANVA PTY LTD	5
IBM AUSTRALIA LIMITED	5
LA TROBE UNIVERSITY	5
MURDOCH UNIVERSITY	5
AUSTRALIAN CYBER SECURITY GROWTH NETWORK	<5
BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP PTY LTD	<5
CAPGEMINI AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE	<5
FRV SERVICES AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
HATCH PTY LTD	<5
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS (PWC)	<5
QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY	<5
SAP AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
SAS INSTITUTE AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
THE WALTER AND ELZA HALL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH	<5
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND	<5

ACCENTURE AUSTRALIA HOLDINGS PTY LTD	<5
AIR LIQUIDE AUSTRALIA LIMITED	<5
BAE SYSTEMS AUSTRALIA LIMITED	<5
BARAJA PTY LTD	<5
CPA AUSTRALIA	<5
DEPARTMENT FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT	<5
ERNST AND YOUNG SERVICES PTY LTD	<5
GHD PTY LTD	<5
GILMOUR SPACE TECHNOLOGIES PTY LTD	<5
HEWLETT-PACKARD AUSTRALIA PTY. LTD.	<5
LATROBE REGIONAL HOSPITAL	<5
LIFE SCIENCES QUEENSLAND LIMITED	<5
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY	<5
MLC WEALTH LIMITED	<5
MORGAN STANLEY AUSTRALIA LIMITED	<5
MOUNT ISA MINES LIMITED	<5
NETBAY INTERNET PTY LTD	<5
PFIZER AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
SONY MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
TECHNIP OCEANIA PTY LTD	<5
TELSTRA CORPORATION LIMITED	<5
THE GEORGE INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH	<5
THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL	<5
VICTOR CHANG CARDIAC RESEARCH INSTITUTE	<5
ADOBE SYSTEMS PTY LTD	<5
AMAZON CORPORATE SERVICES PTY LTD	<5
AMAZON WEB SERVICES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
AMDOCS (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD	<5
APPLE PTY LIMITED	<5
ARCS AUSTRALIA LIMITED	<5
AURECON AUSTRALASIA PTY LTD	<5
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BANKING GROUP LIMITED	<5
AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION (ANSTO)	<5
BAKER HUGHES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
BAYER AUSTRALIA LIMITED	<5
CITADEL SECURITIES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
COCHLEAR LIMITED	<5
COOPERATIEVE RABOBANK U.A.	<5
COVER GENIUS PTY LTD	<5
DELL AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
DEPARTMENT FOR ENERGY AND MINING/GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	<5
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH QLD	<5
EQUAL EXPERTS AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
ERICSSON AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
FLUROSAT PTY LTD	<5
GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY	<5
GUARDIAN MEDICAL	<5
HILTI AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
IMAXEON PTY LTD	<5
INTERACTIVE PTY LTD	<5

INVISALIGN AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
JOHNSON & JOHNSON PTY LIMITED	<5
KLEIN & CO. COMPUTER FORENSICS PTY LTD	<5
MASTERCARD ASIA/PACIFIC AUST PTY LTD	<5
METS IGNITED AUSTRALIA LTD	<5
MORSE MICRO PTY LTD	<5
MOTT MACDONALD AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
NEWCREST MINING LIMITED	<5
NOKIA SOLUTIONS AND NETWORKS AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
OFFICE OF THE QUEENSLAND CHIEF ENTREPRENEUR	<5
ORACLE AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
ORICA AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
PALO ALTO NETWORKS (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD	<5
PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES PTY LTD	<5
PROSEGUR AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
QUANTUM BRILLIANCE PTY LTD	<5
RISING SUN PICTURES PTY LTD	<5
ROCHE DIAGNOSTICS AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
SANTOS LTD	<5
SCHLUMBERGER AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
SEEK LIMITED	<5
SEVEN CONSULTING PTY LTD	<5
SNOWY HYDRO LIMITED	<5
SOURCE CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL (SCI)	<5
SOUTH AUSTRALIA HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE LIMITED	<5
STARTUPAUS LIMITED	<5
SUSQUEHANNA PACIFIC PTY LTD	<5
SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY	<5
TECHNICOLOR PTY LTD	<5
UNILEVER AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND	<5
UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA	<5
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY	<5
VOW FOOD PTY LTD	<5
WEAROPTIMO PTY LTD	<5
WOOLWORTHS GROUP LIMITED	<5
2XM PROJECTS PTY LTD	<5
3D SYSTEMS ASIA-PACIFIC PTY LTD	<5
3XN AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
ABB POWER GRIDS AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
ABEL ENERGY PTY LTD	<5
ABN AMRO CLEARING SYDNEY PTY LTD	<5
ABT ASSOCIATES PTY LTD	<5
ACCIONA ENERGY AUSTRALIA GLOBAL PTY LTD	<5
ACCIONA INFRASTRUCTURE AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
ACH AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
ACMENA GROUP PTY LTD	<5
ACOLADE PTY LTD	<5
AFTERPAY AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
AGRIBIO, CENTRE FOR AGRIBIOSCIENCE	<5
AIRTRUNK OPERATING PTY LTD	<5

ALCOA OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED	<5
ALLIANCE17 PTY LTD	<5
ALSTOM TRANSPORT AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION - AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER	<5
AMBIENT IT PTY LTD	<5
ANGLO AMERICAN METALLURGICAL COAL PTY LTD	<5
ANTEO DIAGNOSTICS LIMITED	<5
ANYINGINYI HEALTH ABORIGINAL CORPORATION	<5
ARISTOCRAT TECHNOLOGIES AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
ARMS RELIABILITY PTY LTD	<5
ARROTEX PHARMACEUTICALS PTY LTD	<5
ASH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA	<5
ASK CONSULTING ENGINEERS	<5
ATHENA HOME LOANS PTY LTD	<5
AURORA ENERGY RESEARCH PTY LTD	<5
AUSBIOTECH LTD	<5
AUSFILM	<5
AUSGRID OPERATOR PARTNERSHIP	<5
AUSOMATTIC PTY LTD	<5
AUSTOFIX SURGICAL PTY LTD	<5
AUSTRALASIAN CORROSION ASSOCIATION INC.	<5
AUSTRALASIAN INSTITUTE OF DIGITAL HEALTH LTD	<5
AUSTRALIA PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION	<5
AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF CARDIAC AND THORASIC SURGEONS	<5
AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS	<5
AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR ADVANCED COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATION PTY LTD	<5
AUSTRALIAN ENERGY MARKET OPERATOR	<5
AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS	<5
AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY & DEFENCE NETWORK INCORPORATED	<5
AUSTRALIAN MEAT INDUSTRY COUNCIL	<5
AUSTRALIAN PRUDENTIAL REGULATION AUTHORITY	<5
AUSTRALIAN SPECIALIST CHEESEMAKERS' ASSOCIATION INC	<5
AUSTRALIANSUPER PTY LTD	<5
AVANADE AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
AVANCE CLINICAL PTY LTD	<5
AVEVA SOFTWARE AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
AWN HOLDINGS LIMITED	<5
AXICORP FINANCIAL SERVICES PTY LTD	<5
B. BRAUN AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
BAMSER HOLDINGS PTY LTD	<5
BENEXT TECHNOLOGIES PTY LTD	<5
BENTHIC GEOTECH PTY LTD	<5
BIG FUTURE PTY LTD	<5
BIOFOULING SOLUTIONS PTY LTD	<5
BIOSCIENCES RESEARCH CENTRE PTY LTD	<5
BIOTECH DIAGNOSTICS	<5
BIT TRADE PTY LIMITED	<5
BLOCKCHAIN GLOBAL LIMITED	<5
BLOCKCHAIN SOLUTIONS AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5

BLOOMBERG AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
BOEING AUSTRALIA HOLDINGS PTY LTD	<5
BOMBARDIER TRANSPORTATION AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
BOOST DESIGN PTY LTD	<5
BORONIA CAPITAL PTY LTD	<5
BRACE168 PTY LTD	<5
BRANDON CAPITAL PARTNERS PTY LTD	<5
BUS AND COACH ASSOCIATION NSW INC. (BUSNSW)	<5
CAPSULETECH AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
CATALINA GENETICS PTY LTD	<5
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY	<5
CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURE AND THE BIOECONOMY, QUT	<5
CENTRE FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION	<5
CENTRE FOR EVIDENCE AND IMPLEMENTATION LTD	<5
CENTRE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING, WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY	<5
CENTREVA PTY LTD	<5
CENTURY MINING LIMITED	<5
CFA SOCIETY SYDNEY	<5
CHAIRAY SUSTAINABLE PLASTIC CO., PTY. LTD.	<5
CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY	<5
CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY	<5
CIENA AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
CISCO SYSTEMS AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
CLEAN ENERGY COUNCIL LIMITED	<5
CLEARSCORE AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
CLINICAL LABORATORIES (WA) PTY LTD	<5
CLTP PANEL PRODUCTS PTY LTD	<5
CMTE DEVELOPMENT LIMITED	<5
COLLECTION HOUSE LTD	<5
COMPASS CLINICS AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
COMPASS GLOBAL HOLDINGS PTY LTD	<5
COMPASS HOUSING SERVICES LTD	<5
CONDOR ENERGY SERVICES LIMITED	<5
CONOCOPHILLIPS AUSTRALIA OPERATIONS PTY LTD	<5
COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR OPTIMISING RESOURCE EXTRACTION	<5
COVER-MORE INSURANCE SERVICES PTY LTD	<5
CREATIVE VICTORIA	<5
CRITICAL CARE RESEARCH GROUP	<5
CROSSVIEW AUSTRALIA LIMITED	<5
CULTURE AMP PTY LTD	<5
CYBER SECURITY RESEARCH CENTRE LTD	<5
CYBERCX PTY LTD	<5
DAON (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD	<5
DASSAULT SYSTEMES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
DATA ANALYTICS MANAGEMENT CONSULTING	<5
DB RESULTS PTY LTD	<5
DBG (AUSTRALIA) PTY LIMITED	<5
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	<5
DEPARTMENT OF JOBS, PRECINCTS AND REGIONS, VICTORIAN STATE GOVERNMENT	<5

DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET (SOUTH AUSTRALIA)	<5
DEWC SYSTEMS PTY LTD	<5
DIEBOLD NIXDORF AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
DIGITAL SERVICES AUSTRALIA IV PTY LTD	<5
DISPLAY SWEET PTY LTD	<5
DOCKLANDS SCIENCE PARK P/L	<5
DOMAIN HOLDINGS AUSTRALIA LIMITED	<5
DROP BIO PTY LTD	<5
DTV AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
DUFF & PHELPS AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
DUXTEL PTY LTD	<5
DXC TECHNOLOGY AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
EAST METROPOLITAN HEALTH SERVICE	<5
ECA ENERGY SOLUTIONS PTY LTD	<5
ECLIPSE TRADING PTY LTD	<5
ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION MINISTERIAL HOLDING CORPORATION	<5
ELLUC PROJECTS AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
EMC GLOBAL HOLDINGS COMPANY	<5
ENCOMPASS CORPORATION PTY LTD	<5
ENERGY NETWORKS AUSTRALIA	<5
ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA	<5
ENTERPRISE WIDE HOLDINGS PTY LTD	<5
ENVATO PTY LTD	<5
ENVIZI AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
ENZEN AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
EPOCH CAPITAL PTY LTD	<5
ESTEE LAUDER PTY. LIMITED	<5
EXCEEDRA PTY LTD	<5
EXPEDIA AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
EY BUSINESS SOLUTIONS PTY LTD	<5
FAIR ISAAC (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD	<5
FERROVIAL CONSTRUCTION (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD	<5
FIN-PAY TECHNOLOGY PTY LTD	<5
FLETCHER BUILDING (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD	<5
FLIGHT TRAINING ADELAIDE	<5
FOOD FRONTIER INSTITUTE LTD	<5
FRESHWORKS AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
FUJITSU AUSTRALIA LTD	<5
FUTURE FIBRE TECHNOLOGIES PTY LTD	<5
FXCM AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
GENERAL ELECTRIC INTERNATIONAL INC	<5
GENIX VENTURES PTY LTD	<5
GENPACT AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA	<5
GHENOVA AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
GLENCORE AUSTRALIA HOLDINGS PTY LTD	<5
GN HEARING AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA LTD	<5
GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	<5
GRANT THORNTON AUSTRALIA LIMITED	<5

GREEN LIGHT CONTRACTORS PTY LTD	<5
HARMONY GOLD (PNG SERVICES) PTY LIMITED	<5
HARRY PERKINS INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH INC	<5
HILLS MEDICAL PTY LTD	<5
HIMA AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
HOSPIRA ADELAIDE PTY LTD	<5
HUMAN FACTORS AND ERGONOMICS SOCIETY AUSTRALIA	<5
HUNTER WATER CORPORATION	<5
HUTCHINSON BUILDERS	<5
HYDAC PTY LTD	<5
HYDRO-ELECTRIC CORPORATION	<5
HYPHEN IO PTY LTD	<5
IBERDROLA RENOVABLES ENERGIA S.A	<5
IDENTITY CARE AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND LTD.	<5
IIS INDEPENDENT LIVING SPECIALIST PTY LTD	<5
ILUKA RESOURCES LIMITED	<5
IMAGION BIOSYSTEMS LIMITED	<5
IMMUTABLE PTY LTD	<5
IMPACT TECH AUSTRALIA P/L	<5
INCITEC PIVOT LIMITED	<5
INDEBTED AUSTRALIA PTY. LTD.	<5
INDRA AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
INDUSTRIAL LIGHT & MAGIC (AUSTRALIA) PTY LIMITED	<5
INFINERA PTY LTD	<5
INFINITY CAPITAL FINANCIAL PLANNING PROPRIETARY LIMITED	<5
INFRASTRUCTURE SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA	<5
INGUZ HARVEST PTY LTD	<5
INNOVATE AUSTRALIA	<5
INSIGHT ENTERPRISES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
INSTINET AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
INTEGRATED GLOBAL PARTNERS	<5
INTEGRIA HEALTHCARE PTY LTD	<5
INTERACTIVE GAMES & ENTERTAINMENT ASSOCIATION LTD	<5
INTERNET SERVICES AUSTRALIA 1 PTY LTD	<5
INVASIVE ANIMALS LTD	<5
IPSOS PTY LTD	<5
IQVIA RDS PTY LIMITED	<5
J.P. MORGAN ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES PTY LTD	<5
JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY	<5
JASUSNET PTY LTD	<5
JBS INVESTMENTS AUSTRALIA HOLDING PTY LTD	<5
JIANGSU ASCENTAGE PHARMA PTY LTD	<5
JOHN HOLLAND GROUP PTY LTD	<5
JUNIPER NETWORKS AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
KELLOGG BROWN AND ROOT PTY LTD	<5
KERRY INGREDIENTS AUST. PTY LTD	<5
KPMG AUSTRALIAN SERVICES PTY LTD	<5
LABWEST MINERALS ANALYSIS	<5
LAUNCHVIC LIMITED	<5
LEIGHTON O'BRIEN FIELD SERVICES PTY LTD	<5

LENDLEASE CORPORATION LIMITED	<5
LIBERTY FINANCIAL GROUP LIMITED	<5
LIGHTSOURCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
LIONS EYE INSTITUTE	<5
LIPA PHARMACEUTICALS LTD	<5
LJUNGSTROM PTY LTD	<5
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND LTD	<5
LX DESIGN HOUSE PTY LIMITED	<5
MACQUARIE GROUP SERVICES AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
MALDIID PTY LTD	<5
MATTHEWS HEALTH CODING SOLUTIONS PTY LTD	<5
MEAT AND LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA	<5
MEDTEC PHARMA PTY LTD	<5
MENZIES SCHOOL OF HEALTH RESEARCH	<5
MERCK SHARP & DOHME (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD	<5
METRO PAIN GROUP PTY LTD	<5
MFC SAFE PTY LTD	<5
MICROBIAL SCIENCES, PESTS & DISEASES AGRICULTURE VICTORIA RESEARCH	<5
MIMECAST AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
MIQ DIGITAL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
MTP-ILGC LIMITED	<5
MYRIO THERAPEUTICS PTY LTD	<5
NATILIK PTY LTD	<5
NATTERBOX PTY LIMITED	<5
NATUS MEDICAL PTY LTD	<5
NEMATIQ PTY LTD	<5
NEPEAN BLUE MOUNTAINS LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT	<5
NEUMANN SPACE PTY LTD	<5
NEWMONT AUSTRALIA HOLDINGS PTY LTD	<5
NIOMETRICS PTY LTD	<5
NORTHERN HEALTH	<5
NTT AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
ONIGROUP PTY LTD	<5
ONLINE VENTURES PTY LTD	<5
OPAL PACKAGING PTY LTD	<5
OPEN MARKETS GROUP (OMGROUP)	<5
OPTISELLER PTY LTD	<5
OPTUS ADMINISTRATION PTY LTD	<5
ORBITAL CORPORATION LIMITED	<5
OUTOTEC PTY LTD	<5
OZ MINERALS	<5
PACIFIC NATIONAL HOLDINGS PTY LTD	<5
PALO IT AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
PANALYSIS PTY LTD	<5
PARALYMPICS AUSTRALIA	<5
PARKER HANNIFIN (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LIMITED	<5
PEAK WELL SYSTEM PTY LTD (SCHLUMBERGER SUBSIDIARY)	<5
PERISCOPE DIGITAL GROUP PTY LTD	<5
PETROLEUM EXPLORATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED	<5

PETUNA AQUACULTURE PTY LTD	<5
PHILIPS ELECTRONICS AUSTRALIA LTD	<5
PICTURE WEALTH PTY LTD	<5
PIMCO AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
POSTURE360	<5
PROTEOMICS INTERNATIONAL LABORATORIES LTD	<5
PUBLICIS COMMUNICATIONS AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
QMAG LIMITED	<5
QUALITY LOGISTIC SERVICES AUSTRALIA PTY	<5
QUEENSLAND INVESTMENT CORPORATION	<5
QUEENSLAND STATE GOVERNMENT	<5
QUEST APARTMENT HOTELS	<5
RAMBOLL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
RANDSTAD PTY LIMITED ABN 28 080 275 378	<5
RBP4 PTY LTD	<5
REBAIN INTERNATIONAL (AUST) PTY LTD	<5
RECKITT BENCKISER (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD	<5
RED HAT ASIA-PACIFIC PTY LTD	<5
REDSWITCHES PTY LTD	<5
REMA TIP TOP ASIA PACIFIC PTY LTD	<5
RENISHAW OCEANIA PTY LTD	<5
ROKT PTY LIMITED	<5
ROSENBERGER TECHNOLOGY AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
ROTHSCHILD & CO AUSTRALIA LIMITED	<5
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS LTD	<5
SALINI AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
SALSA INTERNET PTY LTD	<5
SALUDA MEDICAL PTY LTD	<5
SCAPE AUSTRALIA MANAGEMENT PTY LTD	<5
SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC (AUSTRALIA) PTY LIMITED	<5
SECURITY DIMENSION PTY LTD	<5
SEE-MODE TECHNOLOGIES PTY LTD	<5
SEERPHARMA PTY. LTD.	<5
SEERS GROUP AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
SELECT CARBON PTY LTD	<5
SENTIENT HUBS PTY LTD	<5
SERVATUS LTD	<5
SERVICENOW AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
SIMCORP ASIA PTY. LIMITED	<5
SLALOM AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
SNAPSIL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
SODEXO AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
SOILCQUEST PTY LTD	<5
SOLARIG AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
SONOVA AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
SOUTHERN NSW LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT	<5
SPACE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA	<5
SPARKLABS CULTIV8 PTY LTD	<5
SPEEDX PTY. LTD.	<5
SPLUNK SERVICES AUSTRALIA PTY. LTD.	<5

SS AND C TECHNOLOGIES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
STOLWAY PTY LTD	<5
STONE AND CHALK LIMITED	<5
SURGITOOOLS PTY LTD	<5
SWISSE WELLNESS PTY LTD	<5
SYSTRA SCOTT LISTER AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
TASSAL GROUP LIMITED	<5
TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES LIMITED	<5
TEA TOO PTY. LTD.	<5
TEG PTY LTD	<5
TENFOLD AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
TERADATA AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH NETWORK	<5
TETRA PAK MARKETING PTY. LTD.	<5
TEVA PHARMACEUTICALS AUSTRALIA	<5
THALES AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
THE ASBESTOS DISEASES RESEARCH FOUNDATION	<5
THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE ECOLOGY	<5
THE AUSTRALIAN PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND EXPLORATION ASSOCIATION	<5
THE AUSTRALIAN WINE RESEARCH INSTITUTE	<5
THE BAKER HEART & DIABETES INSTITUTE	<5
THE COUNCIL OF THE QUEENSLAND INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH	<5
THE GARVAN INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH	<5
THE IQ GROUP GLOBAL LTD	<5
THE NAUTICAL INSTITUTE WESTERN AUSTRALIA	<5
THE SAX INSTITUTE	<5
THE SMITH'S SNACKFOOD COMPANY LIMITED	<5
THE SOCIAL RESEARCH CENTRE PTY LTD	<5
THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA	<5
THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG	<5
THIESS PTY LTD	<5
THOUGHTWORKS AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
TIGER SPIDER PTY LTD	<5
TITOMIC LIMITED	<5
TOKYO GAS AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
TOTAL E&P AUSTRALIA	<5
TQUILA ANZ PTY LTD	<5
TRADE AND INVESTMENT QUEENSLAND	<5
TRADEMAX AUSTRALIA LIMITED	<5
TRANSBORDERS AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
TYRO PAYMENTS LIMITED	<5
UBER AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE	<5
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	<5
UNIVERSITY OF THE SUNSHINE COAST	<5
VENTURE CONSULTING PTY LTD	<5
VERBREC LTD	<5
VERINT SYSTEMS (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD	<5
VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD	<5
VGW HOLDINGS LTD	<5

VIRGIN AUSTRALIA AIRLINES PTY LIMITED	<5
VOLKSWAGEN GROUP AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
VOLVO GROUP AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
WARREN & BROWN TECHNOLOGIES PTY LTD ATF WARREN & BROWN & STAFF UNIT TRUST	<5
WEALTH ARCHITECTS (NORTH SYDNEY) PTY LTD	<5
WEATHERFORD AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION - KENT STREET	<5
WILLIS AUSTRALIA GROUP SERVICES PLL	<5
WOOLCOCK INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH	<5
WORLDCC PTY LTD	<5
WPP AUNZ LTD	<5
WRIKE AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	<5
WSP AUSTRALIA PTY LIMITED	<5
YOUI PTY LTD	<5
ZENITH ENERGY AUSTRALIA	<5
ZEOLITE AUSTRALIA PTY. LTD.	<5
ZIP CO LIMITED	<5

**HOME AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Inquiry into Australia's Skilled Migration Program

25 June 2021

QoN Number: 27

Subject: QoN responses

Asked by: Julian Hill

Question:

Mr HILL:

Very final question. In your responses, you gave us a bit of random data with a few names, and you said: The following table is illustrative only of organisations nominating multiple candidates ... That doesn't mean anything. It doesn't tell me anything. You just picked a few random organisations that don't remotely add up to the total number of visas. I understand why you wouldn't want to table it for privacy reasons, but the committee can receive stuff in confidence. I'd just like to see a list of the businesses who use this program. Privacy is not a reason to not answer a question to the parliament unless you are making a public interest immunity claim. Amongst corporations, we get stuff all the time in confidence. It doesn't leak. We get commercially sensitive stuff, and it doesn't leak. You can bring it in, and I'll look at it. I'd just like to see a list of the organisations to get a flavour, given that you can't tell us anything about who's using this program.

Mr Kefford: I'm happy to take on notice whether we can do that.

Answer:

A list of all nominating businesses for the Global Talent Independent program from 1 July 2019 to 29 June 2021 is provided at Attachment A.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Inquiry into Australia's Skilled Migration Program

25 June 2021

QoN Number: 28

Subject: Engagement of relevant agencies and industries

Asked by: John Alexander

Question:

Mr ALEXANDER: I noticed that your title is Assistant Secretary of the Skilled Visas Branch. From that I understand that you engage with the education and skills department?

Mrs Lutz: Yes, that's right. And I do so regularly, through less-formal mechanisms and also the other ones which have been mentioned today.

Mr ALEXANDER: Do you need any greater assistance to engage with either them or industry? It seems to me that it's the three big players—your department, the skills department and industry—that need to be brought together and coordinated so that the left hand knows what the right hand is doing. Are you satisfied that that's in fact happening?

Mrs Lutz: I'll leave that as a matter for the committee. However, in terms of my role: as Mr Willard mentioned before, we do have the industry outreach officers, who provide us with information about industry. I would have to take on notice whether that information is provided through the National Skills Commission, but we do talk to the National Skills Commission about what we're finding in what's happening from our program perspective.

Answer:

The Department of Home Affairs engages with other Commonwealth agencies and industry through formal mechanisms, such as:

- The Ministerial Advisory Council on Skilled Migration (MACSM). MACSM provides advice to the Minister on Australia's temporary and permanent skilled migration programs and associated matters. MACSM last met on 17 June 2021. The current membership list can be found on the Department's website at: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-and-support/how-to-engage-us/committees-and-fora/ministerial-advisory-council-on-skilled-migration>.
- The Skilled Migration Officials Group – a forum for the Australian Government and State and Territory governments to discuss proposals and new initiatives, share information and consider issues arising in the implementation of policy in relation to skilled migration.

- The annual Industry Summit – the Department's annual event for senior industry and Australian Government representatives to collaboratively discuss strategic border protection and immigration issues. The last Industry Summit was held virtually on 23 and 24 November 2020.

Home Affairs also interacts with other Commonwealth departments and agencies through numerous interdepartmental committees on skilled migration policy matters; particularly when reforms or reviews are being considered.

In addition, there is regular and ongoing engagement as part of business as usual policy and program management work. The Skilled Visa Branch regularly engages with a number of Commonwealth agencies on skilled visa policies and programs, including:

- Austrade
- Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
- Department of Education, Skills and Employment
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department of Health
- Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
- Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- National Skills Commission
- The Treasury
- Tourism Australia

The Skilled Visa Branch also engages with a range of federal, state/territory and local government agencies through our Business, Industry & Regional Outreach (BIRO) officer network. The role of the BIRO Officers is to engage directly with key stakeholders, businesses, employers, industry bodies and regional communities and promote Australia's Skilled Visa Program, with the purpose of increasing stakeholders' understanding of the available suite of skilled migration options to support communities and employers to meet their specific skill shortage needs. The BIROs are also focused on supporting the provision of information to the negotiation of Designated Area Migration Agreements (DAMAs) and promoting the Global Talent Visa Program and the Global Business and Talent Attraction Taskforce.

The BIROs are currently based across Australia in New South Wales (also covering ACT), Queensland (covers Northern Territory), Victoria (covers Tasmania), South Australia and Western Australia

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Inquiry into Australia's Skilled Migration Program

25 June 2021

QoN Number: 29

Subject: NZ system of streams of permanency

Asked by: Julian Leaser

Question:

CHAIR: I want to ask you about the idea of tiering permanency based on skill level and income, as the New Zealanders do. Are you familiar with the New Zealand model, where they use ANZSCO classifications and they use skill levels, and there are different streams of permanency based on whether you're a highly or a lowly skilled migrant and also on salary level? Do you have any comment on the New Zealand model?

Mr Kefford: I am aware of it, but I wouldn't presume to give commentary on it as evidence to the committee.

CHAIR: I'm not sure if you're going to be able to help us. I'm trying to formulate the right question so you might be able to. If, hypothetically, we were to go down a New-Zealand-style route in relation to permanent residency, what would the effect of that be? Have you had a look to see what the effect of that has been in terms of New Zealanders being able to attract people to fill skill shortages in their economy? Are you familiar with that?

Mr Kefford: We'll take that on notice and come back to you.

Answer:

Information on the New Zealand model is available on the Immigration New Zealand website <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/new-zealand-visas/options/live-permanently/all-residents-visas>.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Inquiry into Australia's Skilled Migration Program

25 June 2021

QoN Number: 30

Subject: Grattan Institute report

Asked by: Julian Hill

Question:

Mr HILL: Yes, one just to put on notice. I think you said in your opening statement there were some changes coming into the BIIP on 1 July. Could you just give us a little bit of detail about them, on notice.

Mr Willard: Yes, sure. I mentioned them briefly before in terms of the investment framework. I'm happy to take that on notice.

Mr HILL: Thanks. Secondly, if you were able to provide at least some response to the Grattan Institute's pretty robust critique of the BIIP, that would be of interest. I suspect there'll be some limitations in what you're able to say. But, reading that report, the figures that were used were pretty stunning—even if you could advise us that you disagree with some of the figures.

Mr Willard: I'm happy to take that on notice.

Answer:

Changes to the Business Innovation and Investment program (BIIP) from 1 July 2021

- The program has been simplified to four visa streams: Business Innovation, Entrepreneur, Investor, and Significant Investor. There is a clear pathway to permanent residency for each category, available to BIIP migrants who can demonstrate their contribution to the Australian economy.
 - Provisional visa holders in all four streams will be able to apply for permanent residence if they meet the requirements after three years, and the provisional visa is valid for five years.
 - Business Innovation and Significant Investor visa holders will continue to be able to extend their provisional visas if they do not meet the business and residence thresholds.
 - The Premium Investor, Significant Business History and Venture Capital Entrepreneur visas closed to new applications. Applications already lodged will still be processed.

- Business Innovation visa applicants are required to hold business assets of \$1.25 million (up from \$800,000) and have an annual turnover of \$750,000 (up from \$500,000). The increased thresholds seek to ensure the program is attracting migrants with proven business skills.
- The \$200,000 funding threshold required for Entrepreneur visa applicants no longer applies. Applicants need to be endorsed by a state or territory government. This follows the successful Supporting Innovation in South Australia pilot program and gives states and territories an additional way to attract international entrepreneurs.
- The following changes to the Complying Investment Framework (CIF) and Investor visa under the BIIP have been implemented, improving the quality of investments:
 - The investment amount for the Investor visa has been increased from \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million. The investment amount for the Significant Investor visa remains at \$5 million.
 - The CIF has been introduced to the Investor visa (and continues to apply to the Significant Investor visa).
 - The CIF investment composition is now:
 - 20 per cent in (up from 10 per cent) Venture Capital and Private Growth Equity funds (VCPE) that invest in start-up and small private companies.
 - 30 per cent in eligible managed funds or Listed Investment Companies (LICs) that invest in emerging companies.
 - 50 per cent (down from 60 per cent) in balancing investments in managed funds or LICs that invest in eligible assets, including Australian listed securities, eligible corporate bonds or notes, annuities and real property.
- A summary is available on our webpage, <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/reports-and-publications/submissions-and-discussion-papers/biip-getting-better-deal-australia>, outlining the consultation process, findings, changes and the structure of the BIIP from 1 July 2021.

Response to Grattan Institute's critique of the BIIP

- The Department acknowledges Grattan Institute's recent report entitled 'Rethinking permanent skilled migration after the pandemic', and the work of other academics and research organisations.
- The Department is not obligated to formally respond to the recommendations in private sector reports.
- The BIIP targets migrants who have a demonstrated history of success or talent in innovation, investment and business and are able to make a significant contribution to the national innovation system and the Australian economy.

- Many fiscal models only consider income tax paid and not business and investment earnings and activities. This lowers the apparent economic contribution of BIIP migrants.
- BIIP migrants are expected to be job multipliers instead of participants in the Australian labour market. They contribute to the Australian economy by providing employment opportunities for Australians and supporting the Australian innovation ecosystem. They help inject additional funds into the Australian economy including into higher risk investments that support emerging enterprises, the commercialisation of Australian ideas, and research and development which is a key aspect of economic recovery.
- For every 1,000 BIIP visa places (primary and secondary) filled, the benefit to Australia is on average:
 - \$206.7 million in direct investment (through managed funds and bonds).
 - More than \$187 million in assets transferred to Australia to support the development of businesses.
 - More than 290 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs supported (in order to transition from a provisional to a permanent visa, Business Innovation visa holders must meet certain criteria, one of which can include employing two Australian citizens or permanent residents).
- The age limit for BIIP visas is more flexible than other skilled migration visas, as the productive phase and social and economic benefits of these migrants differ from other skilled migrants. This is because the focus of the BIIP is on investment and business experience, and the potential for innovation.
- On 19 May 2021, Minister Hawke announced further changes from 1 July 2021 to the BIIP, entitled 'Getting a better deal for Australia from visa investments', in addition to those announced on 17 December 2020.
 - These changes seek to create more Australian jobs, promote the growth of key sectors and support Australia's economic bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - These changes were informed by the BIIP review in 2020, and a second round of consultations that took place in early 2021.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Australia's Skilled Migration Program

25 June 2021

QoN Number: 31

Subject: Industry outreach officer program

Asked by: Julian Leeser

Question:

CHAIR: Can I move to issues about the way in which the program is administered? We had the Motor Traders Association talking to us this morning, for example, about having people in their industry association from the department. There was a program, which ran between 2010 and 2012, where they had people there that were able to both help provide feedback to the department as to conditions in the industry and help people in the industry to navigate the migration system. Do you have anything to say about that particular program? Is there a proposal to reintroduce something like that?

Mr Willard: I believe that's a reference to an industry outreach officer program. We do have business industry and regional outreach officers in place now. It's distinct from the industry outreach program in that they're not embedded, if you like, in a particular industry or sector, but they are available for those purposes which you describe to make sure people have got information about how the system works and to understand what different sectors are thinking about regarding migration.

CHAIR: How are they providing you with information back as to what's happening in the sector too?

Mr Willard: There's a schedule of activities they undertake, and they feed back to us on the sort of discussions they're having, what they're hearing and the questions they're getting.

CHAIR: You might take on notice what the role of these officers is and how they differ from the program that was in place previously.

Mr Willard: I'm happy to do that. Broadly, though, they're not embedded officers in a sector as the industry outreach officers used to be. They're available for outreach, but they engage more broadly. They engage across a range of sectors across regions.

Answer:

In late 2020 the Business Industry and Regional Outreach (BIRO) officer network was introduced. This replaced the Industry Outreach Officer program that existed from 2005 until mid-2014 and the Regional Outreach Officer (ROO) arrangements in place from November 2019. The purpose of the BIRO network is to drive proactive efforts to engage with key stakeholders, businesses, employers and industry bodies within their jurisdiction to boost skilled migration, fill employment gaps where Australian workers are not available and support Australia's post COVID-19 economic recovery.

The BIROs are currently based across Australia in New South Wales (2 positions, also covering ACT), Queensland (2 positions, also covering Northern Territory), Victoria (2 positions, also covering Tasmania), 1 position in South Australia and 2 positions in Western Australia.

BIROs engage directly with key stakeholders, businesses, employers, industry bodies and regional communities and promote the Department's Skilled Visa Program. This aim of this engagement is to increase stakeholders' understanding of the available suite of skilled migration options to support communities and employers to meet their specific skill shortage needs.

BIROs have a responsibility to:

- raise awareness and understanding of the range of regional initiatives - by working in partnership with all levels of government and relevant regional networks
- visit and engage with regional stakeholders to develop and strengthen partnerships with regional communities and assist them to make the most of regional migration
- support regional communities and employers to meet their specific skill shortage needs
- promote Designated Area Migration Agreements (DAMAs) and support negotiations with prospective regions interested in establishing a DAMA
- promote the Global Talent Visa Program and the Global Business and Talent Attraction Taskforce to relevant stakeholders
- provide a local contact point for information on skilled migration initiatives, pathways and processes and provide dedicated support to employers and industry groups.

From January 2020 to end of May 2021, BIROs conducted 951 engagement activities.

BIROs work closely with Regional Development Australia (RDA) teams, who are key stakeholders located in each region. RDA is federally funded by the Department of Infrastructure.

BIROs undertake a mixture of targeted engagement with stakeholders, as well as scheduled roadshows in regional areas and virtual webinars. Where and when necessary BIROs undertake engagements on virtual platforms to support COVID-safe delivery in line with local jurisdictional requirements. The key target audience for the Roadshow sessions is business, industry and regional stakeholders. Key themes from these engagements is collated into a monthly report and provided to key internal stakeholders, including policy and program management areas and other areas in the Department who also engage regularly with external stakeholders.

The BIRO officers are contactable through the Department's website
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/form-listing/Pages/business-industry-regional-outreach-contact-form.aspx>