

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Inquiry into the Working Holiday Maker program

3 August 2020

QoN Number: 03

Subject: Working Holiday Makers Program - fees

Asked by: Julian Hill

Question:

Mr HILL: ... In regard to the fees issue that was touched on before, do you have data on how many working holiday-maker visas and work and holiday visas have been issued that have currently not been activated through entry to Australia?

Mr Willard: I don't have that to hand. I think we could get that. If you wouldn't mind, I'll take it on notice.

Mr HILL: Yes, of course. I wouldn't expect you to have that handy. That'd be great. Could you provide on notice, for each of the visa categories we've been talking about today, preferably by country, data on how many visas have been issued that have not yet been activated at the border—that is, how many people are sitting outside Australia who have paid a fee. Could you also let us know the fees for each visa. Is it a standard fee, no matter from where in the world you apply for it?

Mr Willard: It's A\$485, converted into whatever the local currency is.

Mr HILL: Could you also let us know what fees have been paid for visas which have not yet been activated and, if possible, an expiry date on those visas—a sense of when they start to fall off the perch. That might be too difficult, but, if it's possible, that would be good.

Answer:

On 3 August 2020, there were 24,592 persons outside Australia who had paid the AUD485 Visa Application Charge and been granted a Working Holiday Maker (subclass 417 or 462) visa but who had not activated that visa by entering Australia. All of these visas were “first” Working Holiday Maker (WHM) visas.

The following table shows the total number broken down by month of visa expiry.

Visa Holders Outside Australia - No Movement		Visa Expiry Month							
Visa Category	Visa Subclass	August 2020	September 2020	October 2020	November 2020	December 2020	January 2021	February 2021	March 2021
WHM	417 Working Holiday	791	1,048	1,419	1,728	2,241	3,742	4,771	3,095
	462 Work and Holiday	588	486	566	561	1,042	1,158	916	440
Working Holiday Maker Total		1,379	1,534	1,985	2,289	3,283	4,900	5,687	3,535