

**DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Senate Education and Employment

**06 August 2024**

**QoN Number: IQ24-000183**

**Subject: Modelling and Advice provided to the Department of Education and Treasury**

**Asked by:** Sarah Henderson

**Question:**

Ms Tara Cavanagh - We have provided extensive data on student visa application and grant rates to the Department of Education. There is a range of modelling that I understand they are working on across government, including with our colleagues in Treasury that will go to advice to government on what potential planning level could be.

Senator Henderson - ...I would appreciate if you could provide a copy of that modelling and advice to the Committee

**Answer:** The costing assumptions for this measure are the subject of deliberations of Cabinet and its Committees and are confidential. It is a longstanding practice of successive Governments not to disclose information about the operation and business of the Cabinet and its Committees, including information on New Policy Proposals that may have been proposed or considered.

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Senate Education and Employment

**06 August 2024**

**QoN Number: IQ24-000184**

**Subject: Modelling and Advice based on Australian Financial Review article**

**Asked by:** Sarah Henderson

**Question:**

Senator Henderson - What modelling have you completed? Have you completed modelling based on the report in today's Australian Financial review? [...] What does your modelling show?

Ms Tara Cavanagh - We have not been asked to conduct modelling that would produce a particular result from particular historical date. We have been asked to provide inputs in terms of visa application and visa grant data, and that is what we have done.

Senator Henderson - I would ask you to provide a copy to the committee of that work that you've done in relation to this policy because I realise a lot of the data rests with the Department of Home Affairs, and it's very difficult - including for higher education providers - to navigate all the data because some of it is very opaque.

**Answer:** The costing assumptions for this measure are the subject of deliberations of Cabinet and its Committees and are confidential. It is a longstanding practice of successive Governments not to disclose information about the operation and business of the Cabinet and its Committees, including information on New Policy Proposals that may have been proposed or considered.

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Senate Education and Employment

**06 August 2024**

**QoN Number: IQ24-000187**

**Subject: International student visa holders' contribution to Net Overseas Migration (NOM)**

**Asked by:** Sarah Henderson

**Question:**

Senator Henderson - Can you give an indication of what international student visa holders' contribution to NOM will be for 2023-24 and for calendar year 2024?

Ms Tara Cavanagh - I don't have that data on me.

Senator Henderson – Is that held by the Department of Home Affairs?

Ms Tara Cavanagh – That would be Treasury.

Senator Henderson - You would hold that raw data though, you collect the data.

Mr Damien Kilner – We have grant numbers. We have arrival numbers. We have numbers of those -

Senator Henderson – Right. Could we have that data on notice please?

**Answer:**

Not all student visa holders contribute to Net Overseas Migration. The Department of Home Affairs does not model or produce forecasts for net overseas migration (NOM). The modelling and forecasts for NOM are produced by the Centre for Population within the Treasury.

Data held by the Department of Home Affairs in relation to Student visa grants and movement across the border is contained in tables 1-3 below.

*Note:* Overseas arrivals and departures figures (Tables 2 and 3) record the number of movements of travellers rather than the number of travellers. For example, multiple movements of an individual traveller during a given reference period are all counted.

**Table 1: Student visa grants per year by caseload and location**

Client Location	Visa Type	2023-24	2024-25 to 31/07/2024
In Australia	Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector	292	<5
	Higher Education Sector	49,261	5,859
	Independent ELICOS Sector	7,361	785
	Non-Award Sector	206	<20
	Postgraduate Research Sector	4,223	302
	Schools Sector	1,520	80
	Vocational Education and Training Sector	45,071	4,350
<b>In Australia Total</b>		<b>107,934</b>	<b>11,393</b>
Outside Australia	Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector	4,336	296
	Higher Education Sector	177,969	17,750
	Independent ELICOS Sector	31,659	1,923
	Non-Award Sector	17,457	623
	Postgraduate Research Sector	8,573	638
	Schools Sector	8,258	765
	Vocational Education and Training Sector	20,545	1,115
<b>Outside Australia Total</b>		<b>268,797</b>	<b>23,110</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>376,731</b>	<b>34,503</b>

**Table 2: Student visa holder movement data – 1 July 2023 to 31 May 2024**

Movement Direction	Total
Arrival	727,894
Departure	528,981

**Table 3: Student visa holder movement data – 1 January 2024 to 31 May 2024**

Movement Direction	Total
Arrival	387,380
Departure	208,415

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Senate Education and Employment

**06 August 2024**

**QoN Number: IQ24-000188**

**Subject: Overseas Student Contribution to Net Overseas Migration (NOM)**

**Asked by:** Sarah Henderson

**Question:**

Senator Henderson - The former immigration Deputy Secretary Abul Rizvi says the student contribution to NOM has to fall to well below 100,000 for the government to hit its 2024-25 NOM target of 260,000. These are questions about data that your department holds.

Ms Tara Cavanagh – I have not seen that particular piece. I'm happy to have a look after this.

Senator Henderson – I'm not talking about any media. I'm asking a question on the student contribution to the NOM. I won't say it again. If you don't have the answer, could you please take it on notice?

Ms Tara Cavanagh - Certainly.

**Answer:** The Department of Home Affairs does not model or produce forecasts for net overseas migration (NOM). The modelling and forecasts for NOM are produced by the Centre for Population within the Treasury.

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Senate Education and Employment

**06 August 2024**

**QoN Number: IQ24-000189**

**Subject: Cost of Changes to Home Affairs' IT Systems**

**Asked by:** Sarah Henderson

**Question:**

Senator Henderson – You've indicated there will be significant changes required to your systems, for both your department and the department of Education, to implement caps. Can I please quickly ask: what's the cost of these changes, and have they been budgeted? This is in your submission, page 5.

Ms Tara Cavanagh - [...] I could take that on notice.

**Answer:** The costing assumptions for this measure are the subject of deliberations of Cabinet and its Committees and are confidential. It is a longstanding practice of successive Governments not to disclose information about the operation and business of the Cabinet and its Committees, including information on New Policy Proposals that may have been proposed or considered.