

Pothida Youhorn
Committee Secretary
Community.Affairs.Sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Pothida,

RE: Inquiry into the Social Services Legislation Amendment (Consistent Waiting Periods for New Migrants) Bill 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional material in response to the questions taken on notice.

Please find attached [REDACTED] an Excel spreadsheet containing data provided by the ABS.

Detailed answers to the specific questions taken on notice are provided below.

Senator POLLEY: What would be the sectors and the regions most reliant on migrants for their workforce? What are the challenges around those, particularly now with the pandemic? There's always been an issue about attracting skilled workers into regional areas. Can you tell us what the sectors are? What are the regions most reliant upon migrants?

- There are several sectors most reliant on migrants for their workforce including:
 - health care and social assistance;
 - professional, scientific and technical services;
 - education and training;
 - manufacturing;
 - construction;
 - accommodation and food services;
 - retail trade;
 - administrative and support services;
 - transport, postal and warehousing;
 - agriculture; and
 - primary industries.

- The Australian Bureau of Statistics has provided the attached data excel spreadsheet with respect to sectors with a high concentration of migrant workers. The source of data used for this provision of data is the Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey (CORMS) 2019. Detailed information relating to the survey's scope can be found here [Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia methodology, November 2019 | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/characteristics-of-recent-migrants-australia-methodology-november-2019)

- The attached estimates do not indicate an industry's reliance upon migrants, but do indicate which industries have larger proportions of migrant employees. The attached estimates provide an indication of the number and proportion of permanent residents and temporary residents who had arrived within 10 years of the survey, were employed and working in particular (broad category) industries as of November 2019.
- The analysis table contains estimates for those who were not a recent migrant or temporary resident as of November 2019, permanent residents at the time of the survey or were permanent residents who became Australian citizens during the survey reference period and temporary residents at the time of the survey. Extensive footnotes and caveats can be found within the spreadsheet.
- In summary, the top 5 industries for permanent residents and/or permanent residents who have become citizens are health care and social assistance, professional, scientific and technical services, education and training, manufacturing, and construction.
- In summary, the top 5 industries for temporary residents are accommodation and food services, health care and social assistance, retail trade, administrative and support services, and transport, postal and warehousing.
- The Australian Bureau of Statistics has also provided data with respect to regions where employed migrants were working and the industries in which they were employed. The source of data used for this provision of data is the Census of Population and Housing 2016 - Place of Work.
- These estimates do not indicate regions and industry's reliant upon migrants, but do indicate which selected industries in the top three Local Government Areas employed recent migrants as a proportion of the total number of people working in those industries/ Local Government Areas.
- Both table 1 and 2 use data from the Australian Census of Population and Housing – Place of Work, 2016 database. Place of Work counts people 15 years and over, who are in the labour force, at the place where they worked in the week prior to Census. Detailed information relating to Place of Work can be found here [2901.0 - Census of Population and Housing: Census Dictionary, 2016 \(abs.gov.au\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/2901.0).
- The analysis table 1 contains counts and proportions of recent migrants (those who first arrived with the intention of living in Australia for more than 12 months from 2006 up to August 9 2016) and aged 15 years or more. Industries are ranked from highest to lowest proportion of recent migrants.
- The analysis table 2 contains counts of people aged 15 years or more, who were employed at the place they worked in the week prior to Census Night 2016. Data in analysis table 2 relates to the top industries identified in analysis table 1. It presents the top 3 Local Government Areas (LGAs) with the highest proportion (of total number of people working in those industries/LGAs) of recent migrants.

• **Table 1 Industry sorted by highest to lowest proportion of recent total migrants(a)**

INDP - 1 Digit Level	Recent migrants(a)	Total (b)	Recent migrants (a) as % of Total Employed Pop
	<i>no.</i>	<i>no.</i>	%
Accommodation and Food Services	154,857	738,232	21.0%
Administrative and Support Services	62,743	365,732	17.2%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	112,307	775,978	14.5%
Health Care and Social Assistance	179,232	1,351,018	13.3%
Information Media and Telecommunications	22,690	179,519	12.6%
Manufacturing	84,750	683,686	12.4%
Wholesale Trade	36,870	307,743	12.0%
Financial and Insurance Services	45,080	384,603	11.7%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	58,188	499,485	11.6%
Other Services	43,526	399,634	10.9%
Retail Trade	107,353	1,053,815	10.2%
Mining	17,108	177,640	9.6%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	16,572	182,146	9.1%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	10,054	115,753	8.7%
Construction	77,972	911,058	8.6%
Arts and Recreation Services	14,235	176,667	8.1%
Education and Training	70,431	925,890	7.6%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	18,194	266,952	6.8%
Public Administration and Safety	36,478	713,142	5.1%
<i>Not stated</i>	<i>20,142</i>	<i>130,326</i>	<i>15.5%</i>
<i>Inadequately described</i>	<i>48,117</i>	<i>344,816</i>	<i>14.0%</i>
<i>Not applicable(c)</i>	<i>749,865</i>	<i>8,353,436</i>	<i>9.0%</i>
Total(c)	1,986,770	19,037,278	10.4%

- (a) Arrived 2006 to Census night 2016
- (b) Includes all employed persons aged 15 and over
- (c) Includes all persons aged 15 and over

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2016

- **Table 2 Selected industries (a), Top 3 Place of Work LGAs with highest proportion of recent total migrants(b)**

		Recent migrants(b)	Total (c)	Recent migrants (a) as % of Total Employed Pop
INDP - 1 Digit Level	Top 3 Place of Work LGAs (d)	no.	no.	%
Accommodation and Food Services	Darwin (C)	1,606	3,413	47.1%
	Sydney (C)	16,026	35,511	45.1%
	Perth (C)	3,530	7,990	44.2%
Administrative and Support Services	Perth (C)	1,912	5,245	36.5%
	Sydney (C)	7,026	21,109	33.3%
	Melbourne (C)	5,585	17,503	31.9%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	North Sydney (A)	5,272	19,903	26.5%
	Strathfield (A)	272	1,040	26.2%
	Botany Bay (C)	460	1,849	24.9%
Health Care and Social Assistance	Wanneroo (C)	1,132	3,649	31.0%
	Mosman Park (T)	177	591	29.9%
	Wyndham (C)	1,782	6,188	28.8%
Information Media and Telecommunications	North Sydney (A)	1,114	4,855	22.9%
	Greater Dandenong (C)	115	556	20.7%
	Lane Cove (A)	110	545	20.2%

- (a) Top 5 industries with highest proportions of recent migrants (see Table 1)
- (b) Arrived 2006 to Census night 2016
- (c) Includes all employed persons aged 15 and over
- (d) Where more than 100 recent migrants and recent migrants greater than 20% of total employed persons aged 15 and over

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2016

- The data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics is from 2019 and 2016. Regrettably this does not capture the recent challenges associated with COVID-19. We recognise the pandemic has had a significant impact on Australia's migrant workforce, and it will be particularly important to monitor this from a data perspective moving forward.
- The National Farmers Federation has advised every farming commodity is heavily reliant on migrant workers. Backpackers, pacific workers, and students make up the majority. The seasonal nature of the work has a significant impact. Approximately 10% – 20% of the low and semi-skilled roles across all sectors are filled by migrant workers. In peak season this can

double, and in certain sectors, especially fruit and vegetable, it may be as high as 80%. The reliance is higher further away from the major urban centres, but the fact is that it's across all regions. There is also a reliance on skilled migrant workers, especially in dairy, pork, and wool production.

- The Australian Meat Industry Council has advised the meat processing industry from small to medium enterprise (20-100 staff) through to corporates across rural and regional Australia continues to rely on migrants to fill skills and people shortages. Currently they are 4,000 people short every day in this industry alone. Butchers across Australia in metro, regional and rural Australia are also crying out for more people and would be happy to take migrant workers at any stage. These businesses buy raw material from farmers across all Australia states and territories.
- A major challenge with the pandemic is that workers cannot come in unless through specialised programs (Pacific Labour Scheme, Australian Ag Visa) and the meat processing industry has to compete with other agricultural sectors for a small amount of people. Also, they want full time '365 days a year' workers, while most of the other agricultural groups prefer seasonal workers.
- The meat industry is a major employer (top 3 in Australia) in regional Australia. The companies in this industry continue to struggle to get access to enough workers, and are heavily reliant on migrant workers in all states and all of regional Australia for the meat and allied industries.

Senator GREEN: Thanks for your evidence today. My question is about the case study that you gave us at the beginning of your evidence. It's true to say that some people actually are on a temporary visa or a skilled visa before they become permanent residents. What's the estimated time period that the gentleman you were talking about waited before he was able to access any type of social safety net?

- Eoin McCarthy has advised he arrived in Australia 2016 and the first time he was able to access any social welfare support was during the lockdown in late July/early August 2021. Up until that point, he had not received any financial assistance.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to participate in this Inquiry. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

Alexi Boyd
Chief Executive Officer
Council of Small Business Organisations Australia (COSBOA)

17 September 2021



Characteristics of Recent Migrants, 2019

Industry of current job or business by Current residency status

Counting: Persons

Filters:

Default Summation: Persons (#)

Current residency status	Not applicable - not recent migrant	Has permanent residency status (recent migrant)	Has temporary residency status	Status not determined	Total
Industry of current job or business					
Health Care and Social Assistance	1571.4	119.2	80.5	12.2	1784
Accommodation and Food Services	761.2	37.6	112.5	6.4	914.9
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	1017.2	87.2	36.1	2.5	1141.5
Retail Trade	1171.5	50.6	57.2	3.3	1281.9
Manufacturing	828	52.6	36.7	4.6	917.2
Construction	1094.5	52	31.8	4.1	1184.6
Education and Training	1001.8	54.5	26.4	3.9	1088.3
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	590.9	36.2	38.9	0	664.5
Administrative and Support Services	366.3	23.2	42.3	2.7	432.5
Financial and Insurance Services	409.3	34.7	19.7	3.9	465.3
Other Services	439.9	27.3	25.8	2.9	490.3
Public Administration and Safety	790.9	23.1	4.3	0	821.3
Wholesale Trade	347.4	14.1	10.7	2.5	371.9
Information Media and Telecommunications	174.9	19.9	12.6	0	207.6
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	305.7	8	7	0	320.1
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	202.1	5.1	7.8	0	214
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	144.3	6.6	3.5	0	155
Arts and Recreation Services	224.8	7.7	4	0	235.1
Mining	230.7	1.7	2.7	0	235.5
Inadequately described	0	0	0	0	0
Total	11673.1	653	553.7	48.5	12931.7

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 INFO Continuous variables in this table have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.
 Symbol Description

(000's)
 * Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution
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Characteristics of Recent Migrants, 2019
Industry of current job or business by Current residency status
Counting: Persons

Filters:

Default Summation Persons (#)

Percentage: Row

Current residency status	not applicable - not recent	has permanent residency status	Has temporary residency status	Status not determined	Total
Industry of current job or business					
Health Care and Social Assistance	88.0829596%	6.6816143%	4.5123318%	0.6838565%	100.0%
Accommodation and Food Services	83.2003498%	4.1097388%	12.2964258%	0.69953%	100.0%
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	89.1108191%	7.6390714%	3.1625055%	0.2190101%	100.0%
Retail Trade	91.3877838%	3.9472658%	4.4621265%	0.2574304%	100.0%
Manufacturing	90.2747492%	5.7348452%	4.0013083%	0.5015264%	100.0%
Construction	92.3940571%	4.3896674%	2.6844504%	0.3461084%	100.0%
Education and Training	92.0518239%	5.0078103%	2.4258017%	0.3583571%	100.0%
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	88.924003%	5.447705%	5.8540256%	0.0%	100.0%
Administrative and Support Services	84.6936416%	5.3641618%	9.7803468%	0.6242775%	100.0%
Financial and Insurance Services	87.9647539%	7.4575543%	4.2338276%	0.8381689%	100.0%
Other Services	89.7205792%	5.5680196%	5.2620844%	0.5914746%	100.0%
Public Administration and Safety	96.2985511%	2.8126141%	0.5235602%	0.0%	100.0%
Wholesale Trade	93.4122076%	3.7913418%	2.8771175%	0.6722237%	100.0%
Information Media and Telecommunications	84.2485549%	9.5857418%	6.0693642%	0.0%	100.0%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	95.5014058%	2.499219%	2.1868166%	0.0%	100.0%
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	94.4392523%	2.3831776%	3.6448598%	0.0%	100.0%
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	93.0967742%	4.2580645%	2.2580645%	0.0%	100.0%
Arts and Recreation Services	95.6188856%	3.275202%	1.7014037%	0.0%	100.0%
Mining	97.9617834%	0.7218684%	1.1464968%	0.0%	100.0%
Inadequately described	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	90.2673276%	5.0496068%	4.2817263%	0.3750474%	100.0%

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 Note: In percentage view, RSE Annotations are not available.



Characteristics of Recent Migrants, 2019
Industry of current job or business by Current residency status
Counting: Persons

Filters:
Default Summative: Persons (#)

Table with columns: Current residency status, Not applicable - not recent migrant or temporary resident, His permanent residency status (recent migrants), His temporary residency status, Total. Rows include various industry categories like Health Care and Social Assistance, Accommodation and Food Services, etc.

Table excludes those unemployed and not in the labour force Industry of current job or business - not applicable.

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