

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: 02

Subject: Working Holiday Makers Program - work sectors

Asked by: Raff Ciccone

Question:

Senator CICCONE: One last thing, and I don't know whether you might be able to answer this or not, but would the department have any stats about people who are here under the program, whether they're working in particular agriculture sectors like vegetables, fruit and nut, cotton, dairy et cetera? Do you have any breakdown of statistics, for people who are granted that particular visa, where they're working? Do you track these workers while they are in Australia?

Mr Willard: I don't think we have that breakdown beyond the broader sector. Just to be certain I could take that on notice and see if we do have anything on that. All the data I've ever seen simply breaks it down by the broad sector. It doesn't go into the different elements such as horticulture, for example. The best I can do for you is to take that on notice. We don't track the working holiday makers in the sense that there's no obligation for a working holiday maker to work at all or to work for a specific employer. That's a point of difference from our sponsored work visas, both the temporary skilled visa and the seasonal worker visa, where there's an employer there who also has to be approved to be part of the program. That's a key point of difference between the working holiday maker visa and that cultural exchange element, albeit with work rights, and those work visas which are very much more tied to a specific job.

Answer:

The Department does not hold statistics on the specific fields (eg vegetables, fruit and nut, cotton, dairy) within the agriculture industry in which Working Holiday Makers (WHMs) work.