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Sullivan, Kate (REPS)

From:
Sent: Monday, 28 May 2007 15:06
To: Committee, Migration (REPS)
Subject: Sydney Public Hearing - follow up note

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Dear Senator Parry

Public Hearing on Temporary Business Visas

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and the Committee on Migration at the Committee Hearing on temporary business visas in Sydney last week.

At the hearing, we noted that some applications endorsed under the AFMA Labour Agreement reflect a change in status from temporary to permanent residence. You had expressed an interest in the proportion of transfers from 457 temporary business visas to permanent visas.

We would like to follow up our discussion with the observation that over the past five financial years, the average annual numbers of applications approved through our Labour Agreement are 117 and 38 temporary and permanent visas respectively. The applicants for permanent visas included are all onshore holders of 457 visas. This indicates that, on average, 25 per cent of applications processed through our Labour Agreement are a transfer from temporary to permanent residency.

However, applicants that are applying for transfer to permanent visas in many cases were not applicants endorsed by AFMA for temporary visas at an earlier stage. Many AFMA members apply to sponsor offshore based employees individually and since we do not have data on the number of entrants sponsored directly by members, this makes it difficult to make a judgement on trends in temporary and permanent applications. Further, our members report that our Labour Agreement is particularly efficient for managing permanent visa applications, so it is used by a wider range of members for this purpose, which again affects comparability.

We hope this additional information assists you.

Should we be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 9776 7991 or dlynch@afma.com.au.

Regards

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