

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

2014 - 2015

**Department/Agency: Australian Bureau of Statistics**

**Question: AET 49**

**Topic: Fly-in fly-out workers**

**Reference: Hansard page no. 18 - 26 February 2015**

**Senator: Dastyari, Sam**

**Question:**

49. Senator DASTYARI: You are saying that, to address some of these concerns, it is part of your suite of measures that you have put a proposal to government, including the census and other things that you have already talked about. Part of those proposals for your future plan includes getting better data for fly-in fly-out workers?

Mr Harper: Yes.

Senator DASTYARI: And the way you want to do that is by including questions in existing surveys or by creating a new survey?

Mr Harper: It is effectively a combination of the two. I do not want to go into any more detail than that. The challenge that we have at the moment is that we do not necessarily have the right questions, but we also do not have the survey vehicles with the right frequency in order to get good, ongoing information . We would like to address both of those things as part of a broader package of reform.

Senator DASTYARI: You have already been trialling which questions or surveys will give you that data you need?

Mr Kalisch: Yes, we have been doing some field testing.

Senator DASTYARI: How long have you been doing the field testing?

Mr Harper: I would have to take the specifics on notice, but it would be at least 12 months.

Senator DASTYARI: This is not exact, but over a period of time you have done field surveys on this issue that have informed the proposal that you have put to government as to what you want to do as part of your future work plan?

Mr Kalisch: I think you should expect that the ABS does things in a very considered way.

**Answer:**

The ABS has been developing and testing a question module on whether people have a second residence where they spend significant time since 2012.