

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 24 March 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

### **(AE17/245) - Labour agreement payment thresholds - Programme 2.3: Visas**

Senator Watt, Murray (L&CA 35) asked:

Senator WATT: I am keen to know the number, overall, who are currently employed under this labour agreement, regardless of the occupation; the number who have been employed each other year under that agreement; and how many people, currently or previously, have been employed under the agreement and are paid below that income threshold. Does this labour agreement allow temporary overseas workers to be paid a lower amount than local workers would be paid to do the same job?

Mr Manthorpe: I would not have thought so, but we will take that on notice just to be sure.

Senator WATT: Is there any reason you would not have thought so?

Mr Manthorpe: Yes, because my general understanding of the policy position in this space is that the pay rate to be paid is the TSMIT or the relevant industrial instrument rate, market rate—whatever it might be—whichever is the higher.

*Answer:*

A total of five primary visa holders have been employed under the Restaurant (Fine Dining) Industry Labour Agreement (RILA) template arrangements since they came into effect.

Under these arrangements, overseas workers cannot be paid a lower amount than local workers would be paid to do the same job.