

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 22 May 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(BE17/231) - Numbers of permanent residents - Programme 2.3: Visas**

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

Provide the number of permanent residents living in Australia at:

2012/2013

2013/2014

2014/2015

2015/2016

2016/2017

Provide a breakdown including the number and country of origin for all permanent residents in Australia in:

2012/2013

2013/2014

2014/2015

2015/2016

2016/2017

*Answer:*

The Department is unable to provide a complete count of the number of permanent visa holders in Australia. Departmental systems report on visa holders who have come to the attention of the Department, either through the grant of a visa or by an arrival, since 1 September 1994 (the commencement date of the Migration Regulations 1994 and enhanced computerised record keeping). A person who became a permanent resident before that date and has not subsequently been granted a resident return visa, or travelled overseas, will not be counted. This is because the Department cannot, with sufficient certainty, determine their current residency status in absence of such interactions. On this basis, any count of permanent visa holders in Australia drawn from departmental systems would be inaccurate.

The Department of Social Services maintains data on persons who have settled permanently in Australia, and is the official source for this data. Their Settlement Reporting Facility can be accessed at <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/settlement-and-multicultural-affairs/programs-policy/settlement-services/settlement-reporting-facility>, and includes contact information.

