

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/324) PROGRAMME –

Senator Ludwig (L&CA 19-20) asked:

Senator LUDWIG: Yes, that is what I was thinking. A major project like Roy Hill or something like that.

Mr Fleming: We would be able to give statistics in relation to projects that were covered by labour agreements or project agreements.

Senator LUDWIG: Yes.

Mr Fleming: A common garden variety 457 visa holder might be used on a big project, but unless it is actually done under the auspices of an agreement that covers that project we will not necessarily be able to extract that data. But we will get you whatever we can, Senator.

Senator LUDWIG: It might miss the night watchman or the gardener, but you would get the majority of people on the project, say from Roy Hill. Can you take that on notice?

Mr Fleming: Yes, Senator.

Senator LUDWIG: Are you able to then do it by employer; so those under the labour agreement?

Mr Pezzullo: We, by definition, know who the employers are. But whether we are able to do that in what would have to be a fairly aggregated response—I would have to take that on notice.

Senator LUDWIG: You cannot do it by specific employer?

Mr Pezzullo: As Dr Southern said, we certainly can break down the figure of 36,482 active sponsors by some sort of coordinate. Mr Fleming might be able to slice and dice that even geographically—at least by state and territory—and then cut it by labour agreement, where there are formal labour agreements in place. If what you are then asking—which I think you are asking, but I want to be clear—is: within that breakdown can you identify the employer that is the most prevalent user of 457s right down to whatever number we have? We might have that data, but I do not know that it is able to be made public.

Dr Southern: We would certainly have the data, because obviously we have to approve sponsors.

Senator LUDWIG: I thought that if you took it on notice, then we could then see where we are.

Mr Pezzullo: We will try to give you as much information as we can, consistent with the confidentiality and other provisions we put around the agreement. If that is not to the senator's satisfaction, there are means to resolve that.

Answer:

The table below provide a breakdown of 457 sponsors with a labour agreement or standard business sponsorship as at 30 November 2014 by the sponsor's state or territory location.

No project agreements have been entered into at this stage.

Outside of project agreements, the department is not able to provide data on specific projects as sponsors may have multiple projects in various locations around Australia. While this information may be provided to the department by the sponsor, it is not recorded in the department's systems for reporting purposes. Unless recruited under a project agreement, sponsors can also legitimately move their employees between various projects and locations while they remain on their 457 visa.

| Sponsor Business Location | Labour Agreement | SBSⁱ / OBSⁱⁱ | Total |
|---|-------------------------|---|---------------|
| Australian Capital Territory | 2 | 401 | 403 |
| New South Wales | 28 | 13 763 | 13 791 |
| Northern Territory | 5 | 437 | 442 |
| Queensland | 26 | 5 416 | 5 442 |
| South Australia | 9 | 962 | 971 |
| Tasmania | | 133 | 133 |
| Victoria | 20 | 9 315 | 9 335 |
| Western Australia | 44 | 5 450 | 5 494 |
| Incorrectly Recorded / OBS ² | | 623 | 623 |
| Total | 134 | 36 500 | 36 634 |

ⁱ Standard Business Sponsor

ⁱⁱ Overseas Business Sponsor