

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### (SE14/434) PROGRAMME – 1.2: Visa and Citizenship

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

- (a) What agreements have been announced since the last estimates period in May 2014? Please provide more details on the new agreements.
- (b) What do these deals entail?
- (c) What new skills will young Australians gain by these deals?
- (d) What are the arrangements in terms of support for young Australians in these countries?
- (e) What work and study will young Australians undertake?
- (f) What work and study will students undertake in Australia?
- (g) What are the conditions of the visa for young Australian students in these countries?
- (h) What are the conditions of the visa for young students in Australia?
- (i) When will this program be ready for implementation?

*Answer:*

(a) Since the last estimates period in May 2014, Australia has signed Work and Holiday (Subclass 462) visa arrangements with Spain (on 3 September 2014), Portugal (on 25 September 2014) and Israel (22 October 2014). Also, a Work and Holiday visa arrangement with China was announced on 17 November 2014, and is expected to be officially signed in the first half of 2015.

(b) Each arrangement is subject to an annual cap on participant numbers: Spain 500 places, Portugal 200 places, Israel 500 places and China 5,000 places. Each arrangement also provides the standard Work and Holiday visa entitlements to participants coming to Australia:

- a unique one-off 12 month stay in Australia;
- work rights for the duration of stay but may not remain with any one employer for longer than six months; and
- study rights for four months.

Each arrangement, with the exception of China, is fully reciprocal, providing similar opportunities for Australian participants in the partner country.

(c) Work and Holiday visa arrangements provide Australians with a number of unique opportunities. These include the opportunity to travel to a wide range of partner countries for an extended stay. While visiting a partner country, Australians can hone their employment skills by engaging in work, enhance their foreign language skills, and form lasting cultural and people to people links.

(d) Australian participants are responsible for their own welfare and support arrangements while visiting a partner country, noting that most partner countries will require travel insurance, funds for personal support and a return airfare from Australian participants.

(e) While the Working Holiday Maker programme provides participants with work and study rights during their stay, it does not provide job placements or student enrolments. Participants from partner countries are at liberty to seek work and study opportunities once they arrive in Australia. Similarly, Australian participants travelling overseas to partner countries will be able to access local work and study opportunities at will.

(f) The work and study rights participants hold while in Australia allow them to access any work or study opportunity they wish. The only limit imposed is the longevity of the activity: work cannot be undertaken for longer than six months with any one employer, and a maximum period of four months study can be undertaken.

(g) Working Holiday Maker visa arrangements can vary in their study entitlements from partner country to partner country depending on their respective approach to international study. Some partner countries mirror Australia's four month study limit for Australian participants, while others allow Australians to study for the full 12 months of their stay. Others allow less than four months or no study at all.

(h) Participants are limited to a maximum period of four months study during their stay in Australia.

(i) The Work and Holiday arrangements with Portugal and Spain both came into effect on 23 November 2014. The arrangements with China and Israel are likely to come into effect in mid-2015.