

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1
Output Group: 1.3

DEST Question No. E434_04

Question:

How many teachers have left Australia for overseas? And what countries? Why are they leaving?

Answer:

Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) data cited in the MCEETYA *Demand and Supply of Primary and Secondary Teachers in Australia* report indicates that there were 33,100 permanent and long term departures by teachers from Australia between 1996–97 and 2000–01.

The report, *Skilled Labour: Gains and Losses*, (Birrell, Dobson, Rapson and Smith) reports permanent and long term departures by teachers to the UK and Northern Ireland of 4,008 in the three years 1997–98 to 1999–2000. This is the most frequent destination of permanent and long term departing teachers.

Australian teachers have a good reputation and UK teaching agencies actively recruit here. Anecdotally, we believe many young teachers take advantage of Working Holiday visas to travel and work overseas.