

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/215) PROGRAMME – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

The Department's 457 statistical report for 31 December 2013 shows that the total number of 457 primary visa holders in Australia at end-December 2013 was 8% higher than in Dec 2012 (90,800 vs 83,840), i.e. in all industries combined.

Why are 457 visa holder numbers increasing while full-time jobs in Australia are declining? Is the Department concerned about this trend?

Answer:

The number of visa holders in Australia at any one date is really a cumulative figure consisting of all 457 visa holders that have been granted a visa in the past four years and who were in Australia on the date the snapshot was taken. It cannot be validly compared to an actual point-in-time measurement like the rate of full-time employment.

The department can confirm that the number of primary visa holders in Australia on 31 December 2013 was 90 780, an increase of 8.3 per cent compared with the same date in the previous programme year, which was 83 840.

A further relevant comparison is that there was a 23.9 per cent decrease in the number of visas granted in the 2013-14 programme year to end-December 2013 (27 331) as compared to the 2012-13 programme year to end-December 2012 (35 932).