

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

**(133) Output 1.1: Non-Humanitarian Entry and Stay**

Senator Ludwig asked:

Are there any restrictions on the number of 456 visas which can be allocated to an employer in any given year under short-term emergency circumstances?

*Answer:*

While there is no cap on the number of people an employer may bring to Australia under the subclass 456 provisions, given the highly restricted nature of the emergency work provisions, it would be highly unusual for a large number to be approved under these circumstances for any one employer. Visa decision-makers assess each individual application on its merits.

The proportion of business visitor visa holders entering Australia to work under the emergency, short-term and highly specialized arrangements would be very small. Over 90% of business visitor visa holders stay in Australia for less than 20 days.