

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(53) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Carr and Senator Webber (L&C 63 - 64 and written) asked:

1. Confirm the number of long-stay 457 visas from 1996 through to 2004.
2. Could I get a table that shows the number of people directly employed and the number of dependants?
3. If I could have that breakdown and if I could get the same for the short-stay visas 456.

Answer:

1. Please refer to the table provided in response to part 2 for total subclass 457 visa grants.
2. The following table provides a breakdown of the number of primary and secondary Subclass 457 visas (excluding Independent Executives) granted, rounded to the nearest 10, between 1996-97 and 2005-06:

Programme Year	Primary	Secondary	Total
1997-98	16,550	14,330	30,880
1998-99	16,080	13,250	29,320
1999-00	17,540	13,530	31,070
2000-01	21,090	15,810	36,900
2001-02	18,410	15,100	33,510
2002-03	20,780	16,020	36,800
2003-04	22,370	17,130	39,500
2004-05	27,350	21,250	48,590
2005-06	39,530	31,620	71,150

** The historical figures in this answer differ from those provided in an answer to a question on notice from Senator Ludwig dated 24 November 2005 for the following reasons:

- the above figures exclude Independent Executive 457 visas to provide a more consistent time series. This category was closed to new off-shore applications from 1 March 2003 and replaced by a separate visa category under the new business skills categories; and
 - significant quality assurance work has been done to remove duplicate sponsors and visa holders and correct for mis-codings.
3. The following table provides a breakdown of the number of primary and secondary subclass 456 visas granted, rounded to the nearest 10, between 1996-97 and 2005-06:

Programme Year	Primary	Secondary	Total
1996-97	273,240	2,760	276,000*
1997-98	130,190	1,100	131,290
1998-99	104,220	670	104,880

1999-00	113,630	420	114,050
2000-01	120,990	3,140	124,120
2001-02	128,640	5,250	133,890
2002-03	121,890	4,880	126,770
2003-04	141,810	5,890	147,700
2004-05	162,680	11,930	174,620
2005-06	176,950	8,710	185,660

* The introduction of the Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) in September 1996 provided short stay business visitors the option (through the newly introduced subclasses 956 and 977) of obtaining a visa for Australia at the time they purchased their airline ticket offshore. The significant reduction in subclass 456 visa grants between 1996-97 and 1997-98 reflects the introduction of the ETA.