

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(65) Output 1.1: Non-Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Bartlett (L&C 87) asked:

"I appreciate that working holiday makers do not have to have any work; they can just have a full-blown holiday for 12 months. Do you have any statistics on how many do that? "

Answer:

A survey of 1006 Working Holiday Makers (WHMs) in 2000 by the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research found that 85 per cent of this WHM group engaged in paid employment during their stay (*The Working Holiday Maker Scheme and the Australian Labour Market*, September 2002, p20).

Since 1 November 2005, it has been possible for WHMs to apply for a second Working Holiday visa provided they have undertaken at least three months seasonal work in regional Australia. As at 31 May 2006, 3767 WHMs had applied for this second visa. Consequently all of these persons undertook horticulture and related work in rural areas on their first Working Holiday visa. However, it is too early in the implementation of the second Working Holiday visa to determine what percentage this group represents of the WHM cohort.