

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(92) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry**

Senator Carr asked:

1. Can you provide details of the numbers of employer sponsors for all years of the program, starting in 1999?
2. Can you break those numbers down by industry and state/territory?
3. Has there been rapid growth in the number of employers participating in this program in the last couple of years, matching the growth in the number of visa-holders perhaps? What quantum of growth has there been since 2003-04?
4. Has this presented you with additional administrative challenges? Have you increased staff numbers in this area – here in Canberra or elsewhere? Can you provide details?
5. Will you be able to keep up your monitoring function with your current staff levels and with current rates of growth of the program?

*Answer:*

1. The numbers of onshore business sponsorships (rounded to the nearest 10) approved for the six years from 2000-01 to 2005-06 are as follows:

2000-01: 8,580  
2001-02: 7,670  
2002-03: 7,030  
2003-04: 7,110  
2004-05: 8,240  
2005-06: 9,930

2. The numbers of onshore business sponsorships by industry sector (rounded to the nearest 10) approved for the six years from 2000-01 to 2005-06 are as follows:

<b>Industry Sector</b>	<b>2000-01</b>	<b>2001-02</b>	<b>2002-03</b>	<b>2003-04</b>	<b>2004-05</b>	<b>2005-06</b>
Accommodation, Cafes & Restaurants	550	470	660	770	1,080	1,400
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	200	200	240	220	280	420
Communication Services	1,360	880	760	560	540	550
Construction	360	410	410	480	690	950
Cultural & Recreational Services	520	430	320	310	330	310
Education	210	200	310	300	360	350
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	80	90	70	100	130	140
Finance & Insurance	340	280	270	220	240	270

Government Administration & Defence	60	70	70	90	80	110
Health & Community Services	620	610	600	590	620	850
Manufacturing	910	890	900	820	990	1,180
Mining	190	140	180	180	300	360
Personal & Other Services	1,160	1,000	720	640	630	750
Property and Business Services	890	820	540	750	680	770
Retail Trade	600	630	470	500	560	740
Transport and Storage	200	210	190	210	270	280
Wholesale Trade	280	310	290	360	430	510
Not Specified / Unavailable	50	30	20	20	10	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,580</b>	<b>7,670</b>	<b>7,030</b>	<b>7,110</b>	<b>8,240</b>	<b>9,930</b>

Please note that the numbers in this answer differ from those in QON 57, as these numbers relate to sponsorship approvals in a year, whereas QON 57 relates to the number of active sponsors in a year, where an active sponsor is defined as a sponsor in relation to which one or more visas were granted in that year.

3. Between 2003-04 and 2005-06, the number of primary Subclass 457 visas granted (excluding Independent Executives) (rounded to the nearest 10) has grown from 22,370 to 39,570.
4. Strong growth in any caseload presents challenges. To deal with these, the Department has sought to re-order priorities and increase staff in this area in State, overseas and national offices.
5. The Department is dealing with these challenges in a number of ways including:
  - i. re-ordering priorities to shift more staff into the monitoring and investigations functions;
  - ii. better targeting monitoring to higher risk industries; and
  - iii. increasing engagement with other Commonwealth and State agencies whose legislation may be breached by a 457 employer.