

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(21) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Fierravanti-Wells (L&C 56) asked:

1. How many WHM visas have been granted in 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09?
2. What countries are they from?
3. How many return for the second regional part of the visa?
4. How many WHM visa recipients convert to other visas?
5. Further to the evidence given at the hearing, what countries are we in negotiations with for a prospective WHM arrangement?
6. In relation to the countries with which we have a WHM program, please also provide details of the Australians granted visas to work in those countries over the years requested.

Answer:

1. The number of WHM visas granted, encompassing both the Working Holiday (subclass 417) visa program and Work and Holiday (subclass 462) visa program, was:

2006-07:	136 421 grants
2007-08:	157 575 grants
2008-09:	194 103 grants

2. Australia currently has active WHM arrangements in place with 25 countries and regions. Additionally, an arrangement has been agreed with Bangladesh, but has not yet come into effect. Active arrangement partners are: Belgium, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Indonesia, Ireland (Republic of), Italy, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Malaysia, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

3. The number of second visa grants was:

2006-07:	7790 grants
2007-08:	11 816 grants
2008-09:	21 727 grants

4. Approximately 23 per cent of WHMs acquire another Australian visa after their WHM visa finishes. This figure includes those former WHM visa holders who acquired a visa at any point in time after their WHM visa ended, and from either inside or outside Australia.

5. It is not in the public interest to disclose the information you have requested, as negotiations with prospective partner countries are confidential and disclosure may damage Australia's relationship with other countries.

6. The Department is dependent upon our arrangement partners for the provision of this type of information. Whilst the Department regularly requests information on the number of WHM visas issued to Australians, it is not always forthcoming and, where provided, is occasionally not in a format that is of useful comparative value. This is because Australia's arrangement partners often measure their immigration intake on a calendar year rather than financial year cycle, rendering direct comparison with our own data problematic. As the Department does not collect this data it cannot assure its accuracy. The table below lists the grant data the Department has received to date from our respective partners.

Country	Grants to Australians in 2006-07	Grants to Australians in 2007-08	Grants to Australians in 2008-09
Belgium	10	28	30
Canada	7,539	13,351	10,856
Chile	3	11	16
Cyprus	10	7	1
Denmark	45	<i>NP</i>	1
Estonia	1	<i>NP</i>	<i>NP</i>
Finland	29	46	8
France	363	412	434
Germany	386	483	637
Hong Kong	126	111	114
Indonesia*	-	-	-
Ireland, Republic of	1,730	1,512	997
Italy	286	256	182
Japan	1,147	<i>NP</i>	771
Korea, Republic of	30	40	32
Malaysia**	-	-	-
Malta	13	<i>NP</i>	<i>NP</i>
Netherlands	320	341	353
Norway	74	94	105
Sweden	70	107	75
Taiwan	11	<i>NP</i>	<i>NP</i>
Thailand	0	0	<i>NP</i>
Turkey	0	0	0
United Kingdom	15,610	14,893	11,888
United States***	-	300	<i>NP</i>
Total:	27,803	31,992	26,902

Table Key

NP: Not provided by arrangement partner

*The arrangement with Indonesia came into effect on 1 July 2009

**The arrangement with Malaysia came into effect on 1 February 2009

***The arrangement with the US came into effect on 31 October 2007