

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 20 OCTOBER 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(68) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

1. What are the unemployment statistics for general skilled migrants, including 2006-2007, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009?
2. How does this compare with humanitarian entrants?

Answer:

1. There is no current data available on the economic outcomes of general skilled migrants. The Department has therefore used data from the third *Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia* (LSIA) to respond to this question. The LSIA collected information from migrants who had either arrived in Australia, or been granted a permanent visa between December 2004 and March 2005.

In July 2005, at the six month settlement stage, approximately 10 per cent of general skilled migrants were unemployed. Twelve months later, at the 18 month settlement stage, their unemployment rate had fallen to 3 per cent.

The Department is currently undertaking a new survey, the *Continuous Survey of Australia's Migrants*, which will provide more up to date information on the economic outcomes of new skilled and family stream migrants. The first results of this survey will be released in early 2010. Detailed information about this survey is available on the Department's website.

2. There is limited recent data available on humanitarian entrants who are classified as unemployed. The most recent data was collected between September 1999 and August 2000 as part of the second LSIA, the outcomes of which were detailed in response to a question taken on notice (89) as part of the Budget Estimates Hearing in May 2009. Please also refer to question (52) Program 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance, from 20 October 2009, for more information on this issue.