

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0339A) PROGRAM – 3.1: Border Management

Senator Xenophon (L&CA 86) asked:

In terms of that reporting arrangement, do you look at what information is provided by Qantas? If possible, table the information.

Answer:

Considering that the reporting agreed with Qantas contains personal details of individual crew members, the Department is unable to table the report. The Department can, however, provide a description and statistical breakdown of the reporting provided.

In terms of the report provided by Qantas on foreign crew on 13 July 2012, the agreed period for the report (1 April to 30 June 2012) covered information on crew members holding a Special Purpose Visa, on an exception basis, where the crew member had worked on more than four domestic, contiguous (the Department has previously defined the term 'contiguous' around its expectation that the visa be used in relation to sectors which are part of a flight which has been coded as international) flights in Australia.

For that period, Qantas reported that no Qantas or Jetstar overseas-based crew worked on more than four contiguous domestic sectors in Australia.

For the reporting period from 1 July to 30 September 2012, Qantas provided two reports to the Department. The first report again provided on the number of foreign crew that worked more than four contiguous domestic flights in Australia. In this period Qantas again reported that no Qantas or Jetstar overseas-based crew worked more than four contiguous domestic sectors in Australia.

The second report listed 52 individual international air crew members on 64 international 'tag flights' flights between ports in Australia where their duties did not include an international inwards or outwards leg. Qantas noted that the reported air crew members were listed as positioning air crew, not operating air crew and would only work as operating crew in the event of a disruption. Positioning air crew do not work on a sector, but are being "positioned" or transported to an airport where they will work as operating crew, on a different sector. In the reporting period Qantas did not report any disruptions that required positioning crew to work as operating crew on a sector.

In the same reporting period the Qantas Group listed 334 individual Jetstar international air crew members on 553 individual sectors. Of these sectors, 265 were listed as positioning air crew and 288 were listed as operating air crew.