

From: [Media Operations](#)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: [Media Operations](#); s. 47E(d); [Sara VRH](#); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FOR INFO: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment_s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 8 July 2021 2:35:44 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Afternoon s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Confirming we are working on a proposed response.

Let me know if you need anything further.

Cheers,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Public Affairs Officer | Media Operations
Media and Communication Branch | Executive Division
Chief Operating Officer Group, Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | Media line: 02 6264 2244 | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:media@homeaffairs.gov.au) E: media@homeaffairs.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country - signature block graphic 2020

■

OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 2:32 PM
To: Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: s. 22(1)(a) Media Enquiry[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Can the department prepare a draft response?
We'll probably top it with lines from the minister.
Many thanks.

Regards,
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: [Robert EWING](#)
To: s. 47E(d)
Subject: FW: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 8 July 2021 3:07:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[210708 EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) .docx](#)

OFFICIAL

FYI – will need urgent clearance from Kendra. Drafting now.

Robert Ewing
 Assistant Secretary | Chief Economist
 Economic & Deregulation Branch
 Strategy Division | Strategy & Law Enforcement Group
 Department of Home Affairs
 P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)
 EA: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

OFFICIAL

From: Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 3:02 PM
To: Robert EWING [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>
Cc: [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>; [s. 47E\(d\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.47E(d)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; [s. 47E\(d\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.47E(d)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>
Subject: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Robert,

We've received the below enquiry from [s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au) asking about the effect of overseas migration on wages and the training of Australian workers.

We would be grateful for your input of background and TPs into the attached template.

Apologies for short timeframe but would appreciate the response back by 4:30pm, given the journalist's deadline.

Let me know if anyone else needs visibility of this enquiry.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any issues or questions.

Many thanks,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Public Affairs Officer | Media Operations

Media and Communication Branch | Executive Division

Chief Operating Officer Group, Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | Media line: 02 6264 2244 | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au) E: media@homeaffairs.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country - signature block graphic 2020



s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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From: [Robert EWING](#)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: FW: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 8 July 2021 3:08:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[210708 EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) .docx](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

I'll have a go and then come chat.

Robert Ewing
Assistant Secretary | Chief Economist
Economic & Deregulation Branch
Strategy Division | Strategy & Law Enforcement Group
Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a) @homeaffairs.gov.au
EA(s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au

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From: Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 3:02 PM
To: Robert EWING s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Subject: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Robert,

We've received the below enquiry from s. 22(1)(a)(ii) asking about the effect of overseas migration on wages and the training of Australian workers.

We would be grateful for your input of background and TPs into the attached template.

Apologies for short timeframe but would appreciate the response back by 4:30pm, given the journalist's deadline.

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From: Robert EWING
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); Media Operations; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii); s. 47E(d); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment. s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 8 July 2021 3:11:02 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Will do s. 22(1) – I’m planning to lean heavily on the QoN here. Plus I’ll add something that links a bit more directly to the speech.

Fortunately I saw this in the Governor’s remarks at lunchtime, so I’ve been expecting something and have been thinking about it.

Thanks,

Robert Ewing
 Assistant Secretary | Chief Economist
 Economic & Deregulation Branch
 Strategy Division | Strategy & Law Enforcement Group
 Department of Home Affairs
 P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 E: s. 22(1)(a) @homeaffairs.gov.au
 EA: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au

OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 3:10 PM
To: Robert EWING s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Subject: RE: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment. s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Robert

Let us know if you need anything from us.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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A/g Assistant Secretary | Immigration Planning and Policy Framework Branch
Immigration Integrity, Assurance and Policy Division | Immigration and Settlement Services
Group
Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au | w: www.homeaffairs.gov.au



OFFICIAL

From: Robert EWING s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 3:08 PM
To: Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Subject: RE: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

We'll draft something for you – the only other person I'd suggest for this one is s. 22(1)(a)(ii) who is already copied in.

Thanks,

Robert Ewing
Assistant Secretary | Chief Economist
Economic & Deregulation Branch
Strategy Division | Strategy & Law Enforcement Group
Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au
EA: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au

OFFICIAL

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From: [Robert EWING](#)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: 210708 EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 8 July 2021 3:19:00 PM
Attachments: [210708 EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) .docx](#)

OFFICIAL

I'll come chat.

OFFICIAL

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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment. s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 8 July 2021 3:58:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[210708 EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment. s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\).docx](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi s. 22(1)(a)

Because the question involves training opportunity for Australians, I suggest they consider including the following dot point (adapted from the second JSCM submission):

- All employers nominating an applicant for a visa are required to pay a Skilling Australians Fund (SAF) levy. The SAF levy is used to fund training initiatives for Australians to meet skills needs, prioritising apprenticeships and traineeships in occupations that are in high demand, rely on skilled migration or have future growth potential, including in rural and regional Australia.

The following dot point previously provided by the Chief Economist also seems to be a good addition to the response:

- A large part of Australia's labour market does not determine wages using the market, but rather through the Fair Work Commission minimum wage and award process. This effectively eliminates the effect that immigration could have on wages for employees in this group.

For your consideration.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director, Immigration Research and Analysis Section
 Immigration Planning and Policy Framework Branch | Immigration Integrity, Assurance and Policy Division

Immigration and Settlement Services Group

Department of Home Affairs

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

cid:image002.jpg@01D5EC92.FDA72E30

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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 3:46 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment_s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please let me know if you have any comments.

Thanks

s. 22(1)(a)

OFFICIAL

From: Robert EWING s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 3:35 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment_s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Here's my draft, any comments? Largely based on the QoN as flagged.

Comments ASAP please – need to get this to FAS at 4. I'm also trying to reach out to Treasury to see if they're looking at this.

Thanks,

Robert Ewing
Assistant Secretary | Chief Economist
Economic & Deregulation Branch
Strategy Division | Strategy & Law Enforcement Group
Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au
EA: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au

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From: [Robert EWING](#)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; [Media Operations](#); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) ; s. 47E(d) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment_ s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 8 July 2021 4:20:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Will do.

Robert Ewing
Assistant Secretary | Chief Economist
Economic & Deregulation Branch
Strategy Division | Strategy & Law Enforcement Group
Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)
EA: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 4:12 PM
To: Robert EWING s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; s. 47E(d) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.47E(d)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment_ s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Grateful if we can have a copy of the final once cleared.

s. 22(1)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
A/g Assistant Secretary | Immigration Planning and Policy Framework Branch
Immigration Integrity, Assurance and Policy Division | Immigration and Settlement Services Group
Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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E s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au | w: www.homeaffairs.gov.au

cid:image002.jpg@01D5EC92.FDA72E30

OFFICIAL

From: Robert EWING s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 4:07 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: Re: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment_s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks - added.

Robert Ewing
 Chief Economist (Assistant Secretary)
 Economic Analysis Branch | Strategy Division
 Strategy & Law Enforcement
 Department of Home Affairs
 P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au

Sent from my mobile device, apologies for any brevity or shorthand.

OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Date: Thursday, 8 July 2021 at 4:00:02 pm
To: "Robert EWING" s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>, "Media Operations" <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>, s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment_s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Hi Robert

Because the question involves training opportunity for Australians, I suggest consider including the following dot point (adapted from the second JSCM submission):

- All employers nominating an applicant for a visa are required to pay a Skilling Australians Fund (SAF) levy. The SAF levy is used to fund training initiatives for Australians to meet skills needs, prioritising apprenticeships and traineeships in occupations that are in high demand, rely on skilled migration or have future growth potential, including in rural and regional Australia.

Thanks

s. 22(1)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

A/g Assistant Secretary | Immigration Planning and Policy Framework Branch
Immigration Integrity, Assurance and Policy Division | Immigration and Settlement Services Group

Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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OFFICIAL

From: Robert EWING s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 3:35 PM

To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 47E(d)

@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

@homeaffairs.gov.au>

Subject: RE: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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****Please update the classification of the document if information provided in the background is above Official****

MEDIA ENQUIRY

Subject: Affect of overseas migration on wages and employment			
Deadline: 4:30pm, 8 July 2021			
Journalist: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)		Outlet: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Phone:	Mobile: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Email: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Enquiry Received (Time & Date): 2:32pm, 8 July 2021			
Media Officer: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)		Media Ph: 02 6264 2244	

QUESTION / ISSUE

Journalist asked:

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

RESPONSE OFFICIAL

- Bullet point; 11pt Arial font.
- TPs provide the cleared narrative of an incident/issue/event and must be based on known facts.
- TPs should be concise, free of jargon, contain no acronyms and developed in a news hierarchy – important information up front.
- TPs should be constructed so that spokespeople can build an appropriate narrative to support the incident/issue/event.
- This section provides all cleared information that is available for use by any person or agency that is cleared to engage with the media or other individuals/agencies on this issue/incident/event.

BACKGROUND NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

(The information below is classified and should not be publicly released without the authority of the Department of Home Affairs.)

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Please note: It is the Business Areas responsibility to include any pertinent sensitive information in the background of this document.

Exemptions to this requirement can be negotiated with the Assistant Secretary Media & Communication Branch

A short, unclassified brief providing background/context to the incident/issue/event which may not be clear from the rest of the document; the background must detail actions taken by agency/departments/other stakeholders in the information environment, propaganda by adversaries/interest groups and highlight sensitive considerations.

The background may point to further correspondence on a higher classification system if required.

CLEARANCE:

Drafted by	Title	Time/Date drafted

Cleared by	Title	Time/Date cleared
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	A/g Director, Media Operations	

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MEDIA ENQUIRY

Subject: Affect of overseas migration on wages and employment			
Deadline: 4:30pm, 8 July 2021			
Journalist: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)		Outlet: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Phone:	Mobile: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Email: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Enquiry Received (Time & Date): 2:32pm, 8 July 2021			
Media Officer: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)		Media Ph: 02 6264 2244	

QUESTION / ISSUE

Journalist asked:

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

RESPONSE OFFICIAL

- Studies of the Australian economy have consistently found no statistically significant relationship between wage growth and immigration (including the temporary skilled migration program).
- The Productivity Commission considered this issue in their 2016 inquiry on *Migrant Intake into Australia*. Research conducted by economists at the ANU as part of the inquiry found little evidence that the labour market outcomes of Australian born workers are negatively related to immigration.
- The Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) in its 2019 *Effects of temporary migration* report used modelling of ABS data to show that recently arrived migrants have not had a negative impact on the wages or participation rates of Australian born workers. In some cases, an increase in migrant concentrations in certain levels of qualification and experience is associated with a positive impact on wages and employment.
- Temporary skilled visa holders must be paid the annual market salary rate (AMSR) as per the relevant fair work instrument, state industrial instrument or transitional instrument, unless their annual earning is over \$250,000. The AMSR cannot be lower than the

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Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT), currently \$53,900. This helps to ensure that overseas workers are not paid less than what an Australian worker would be paid, doing the same work in the same location.

BACKGROUND NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

The journalists question stems from remarks contained in a speech by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, Mr Phillip Lowe, at an Economic Society of Australia (Queensland) event on 8 July 2021. The relevant portion of his speech (highlight added on key section):

The second supply side factor is the ability that firms have had to draw on overseas workers when skills or workers were in short supply in Australia. In some cases, firms hired workers from overseas directly to fill specific gaps, but in other cases they hired people who were already in Australia for other reasons, including to study and on working holidays.

It is useful to distinguish the effects of this ability to draw on overseas labour markets from the impact of immigration more broadly. Immigration adds to both the supply of, and demand for, labour: when immigrants work they supply labour and their consumption of goods and services adds to the demand for labour. The precise balance between this extra labour supply and extra labour demand is difficult to determine and depends upon the specific circumstances.

The picture, though, is clearer when firms are hiring workers to overcome bottlenecks and fill specific gaps where workers are in short supply. This hiring dilutes the upward pressure on wages in these hotspots and it is possible that there are spillovers to the rest of the labour market. This hiring can also dilute the incentive for businesses to train workers to do the required job.

On the positive side of the ledger, hiring overseas workers to overcome bottlenecks allows firms to hire the people they need to operate effectively, and to expand and invest. This benefit was clearly evident during the resources boom, and there are a wide range of businesses and industries that have benefited from hiring foreign workers. Without this ability, output in Australia would have been lower.

At the time of the previous census (in 2016), there were around 430,000 people working in Australia on temporary visas. In the food trades, these workers filled around 18 per cent of all jobs; and in the hospitality sector, they filled 13 per cent of jobs (Graph 7). Most of these workers were on either temporary visas for skilled workers or student visas. In contrast, in the farm sector it was more common for workers to be on working holiday visas.

In conceptual terms, one can think of this ability to tap into the global labour market for workers that are in short supply as flattening the supply curve for these workers. A flat supply curve means that a shift in demand has only a small effect on prices, or in this case wages. In my view, this is one of the factors that has contributed to wages being less sensitive to shifts in demand than was once the case.

CLEARANCE:

Drafted by	Title	Time/Date drafted
Robert Ewing	Chief Economist	3.30pm, 8 July 2021

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Cleared by	Title	Time/Date cleared
Kendra Morony	First Assistant Secretary, Strategy	
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	A/g Director, Media Operations	

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under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*

OFFICIAL

Text message 8 Jul 4:49pm (from s. 22(1)(a)(ii)): Hi Robert, it's s. 22(1)(a)(ii) from Media Ops. Just tried to give you a quick call. My Director has just suggested two minor grammatical changes to the response, which I've sent back to you in tracked changes. Grateful if you could please review and advise of any concerns. Many thanks.

Text message 8 July 4:46pm (from s. 22(1)(a)(ii)): Hi Robert, media ops have just come back with a few questions on the media enquiry if you have a chance to check your emails

From: [Robert EWING](#)
To: [Media Operations](#)
Cc: s. 47E(d) s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment_ s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 8 July 2021 4:50:55 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[210708 EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment_ s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)_\(002\).docx](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi,

Adjusted per your comments.

Thanks,

Robert Ewing
 Assistant Secretary | Chief Economist
 Economic & Deregulation Branch
 Strategy Division | Strategy & Law Enforcement Group
 Department of Home Affairs
 P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
 E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)
 EA: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

OFFICIAL

From: Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 4:45 PM
To: Robert EWING s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment_ s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Robert,

Thank you again for your assistance with this response.

We just have a few quick questions regarding the wording as per tracked changes attached. Grateful if you could please confirm if our proposed amendments are correct.

I'll give you a call shortly to flag this is with you.

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Much appreciated,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Media Operations
Media and Communication Branch | Executive Division
Department of Home Affairs

Media line: 02 6264 2244 | **P:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Acknowledgement of Country - signature block graphic 2020



OFFICIAL

From: Robert EWING s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>

Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 4:22 PM

To: Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>

Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; s. 47E(d)

[@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; s. 47E(d)

[@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>;

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

[@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; Kendra MORONY

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>; s. 47E(d)

[@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>

Subject: RE: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cleared response attached. Happy to discuss if there are any questions – mobile is the best number to reach me on.

Consultation was Immigration Planning and Policy Framework Branch and Department of the Treasury.

Thanks,

Robert Ewing
Assistant Secretary | Chief Economist
Economic & Deregulation Branch
Strategy Division | Strategy & Law Enforcement Group

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Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a) @homeaffairs.gov.au
EA: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au

OFFICIAL

From: Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 3:02 PM
To: Robert EWING s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>; Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>
Subject: FOR INPUT/CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Robert,

We've received the below enquiry from s. 22(1)(a)(ii) asking about the effect of overseas migration on wages and the training of Australian workers.

We would be grateful for your input of background and TPs into the attached template.

Apologies for short timeframe but would appreciate the response back by 4:30pm, given the journalist's deadline.

Let me know if anyone else needs visibility of this enquiry.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any issues or questions.

Many thanks,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Public Affairs Officer | Media Operations
Media and Communication Branch | Executive Division
Chief Operating Officer Group, Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | Media line: 02 6264 2244 | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au E: media@homeaffairs.gov.au

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under the Freedom of Information Act 1982



****Please update the classification of the document if information provided in the background is above Official****

MEDIA ENQUIRY

Subject: Affect of overseas migration on wages and employment			
Deadline: 4:30pm, 8 July 2021			
Journalist: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)		Outlet: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Phone:	Mobile: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Email: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Enquiry Received (Time & Date): 2:32pm, 8 July 2021			
Media Officer: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)		Media Ph: 02 6264 2244	

QUESTION / ISSUE

Journalist asked:

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

RESPONSE OFFICIAL

- As the Governor’s speech discusses, migration has broad benefits for the Australian economy, adding to the supply and the demand of labour. Recent modelling of the economic benefits of migration in the 2021 Intergenerational Report supports this.
- As the Governor noted, the labour market interactions of migration are complex, and the outcomes will depend on the specific circumstances.
- Studies of the Australian economy have consistently found no statistically significant relationship between wage growth and immigration (including the temporary skilled migration program).
- The Productivity Commission considered this issue in their 2016 inquiry on *Migrant Intake into Australia*. Research conducted by economists at the ANU as part of the inquiry found little evidence that the labour market outcomes of Australian born workers are negatively related to immigration.
- The Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) in its 2019 *Effects of temporary migration* report used modelling of ABS data to show that recently arrived migrants have not had a negative impact on the wages or participation rates of Australian born workers. In some cases, an increase in migrant concentrations in certain levels of

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OFFICIAL

qualification and experience is associated with a positive impact on wages and employment.

- All employers nominating an applicant for a visa are required to pay a Skilling Australians Fund (SAF) levy. The SAF levy is used to fund training initiatives for Australians to meet skills needs, prioritising apprenticeships and traineeships in occupations that are in high demand, rely on skilled migration or have future growth potential, including in rural and regional Australia.

BACKGROUND NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

The journalists question stems from remarks contained in a speech by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, Mr Phillip Lowe, at an Economic Society of Australia (Queensland) event on 8 July 2021. The relevant portion of his speech (highlight added on key section):

The second supply side factor is the ability that firms have had to draw on overseas workers when skills or workers were in short supply in Australia. In some cases, firms hired workers from overseas directly to fill specific gaps, but in other cases they hired people who were already in Australia for other reasons, including to study and on working holidays.

It is useful to distinguish the effects of this ability to draw on overseas labour markets from the impact of immigration more broadly. Immigration adds to both the supply of, and demand for, labour: when immigrants work they supply labour and their consumption of goods and services adds to the demand for labour. The precise balance between this extra labour supply and extra labour demand is difficult to determine and depends upon the specific circumstances.

The picture, though, is clearer when firms are hiring workers to overcome bottlenecks and fill specific gaps where workers are in short supply. This hiring dilutes the upward pressure on wages in these hotspots and it is possible that there are spillovers to the rest of the labour market. This hiring can also dilute the incentive for businesses to train workers to do the required job.

On the positive side of the ledger, hiring overseas workers to overcome bottlenecks allows firms to hire the people they need to operate effectively, and to expand and invest. This benefit was clearly evident during the resources boom, and there are a wide range of businesses and industries that have benefited from hiring foreign workers. Without this ability, output in Australia would have been lower.

At the time of the previous census (in 2016), there were around 430,000 people working in Australia on temporary visas. In the food trades, these workers filled around 18 per cent of all jobs; and in the hospitality sector, they filled 13 per cent of jobs (Graph 7). Most of these workers were on either temporary visas for skilled workers or student visas. In contrast, in the farm sector it was more common for workers to be on working holiday visas.

In conceptual terms, one can think of this ability to tap into the global labour market for workers that are in short supply as flattening the supply curve for these workers. A flat supply curve means that a shift in demand has only a small effect on prices, or in this case, wages. In my view, this is one of the factors that has contributed to wages being less sensitive to shifts in demand than was once the case.

OFFICIAL**CLEARANCE:**

Drafted by	Title	Time/Date drafted
Robert Ewing	Chief Economist	3.30pm, 8 July 2021

Cleared by	Title	Time/Date cleared
Kendra Morony	First Assistant Secretary, Strategy	
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	A/g Director, Media Operations	

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under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*

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Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

****Please update the classification of the document if information provided in the background is above Official****

MEDIA ENQUIRY

Subject: Affect of overseas migration on wages and employment		
Deadline: 4:30pm, 8 July 2021		
Journalist: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Outlet: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Phone:	Mobile: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Email: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Enquiry Received (Time & Date): 2:32pm, 8 July 2021		
Media Officer: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Media Ph: 02 6264 2244	

QUESTION / ISSUE

Journalist asked:

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

RESPONSE OFFICIAL

- As the Governor's speech discusses, migration has broad benefits for the Australian economy, adding to the supply and the demand of labour. Recent modelling of the economic benefits of migration in the 2021 Intergenerational Report supports this.
- As the Governor noted, the labour market interactions **of stemming from** migration are complex, and the outcomes will depend on the specific circumstances.
- Studies of the Australian economy have consistently found no statistically significant relationship between wage growth and immigration (including the temporary skilled migration program).
- The Productivity Commission considered this issue in their 2016 inquiry on *Migrant Intake into Australia*. Research conducted by economists at the ANU as part of the inquiry found little evidence that the labour market outcomes of Australian born workers are negatively **related to impacted by** immigration.
- The Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) in its 2019 *Effects of temporary migration* report used modelling of ABS data to show that recently arrived migrants have not had a negative impact on the wages or participation rates of Australian-born workers. In some cases, an increase in migrant concentrations in certain levels of

Commented s. 22(1)(a) Should this be with?

Commented s. 22(1)(a) Should this be impacted by?

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under the Freedom of Information Act 1982

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OFFICIAL

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CLEARANCE:

Drafted by	Title	Time/Date drafted
Robert Ewing	Chief Economist	3.30pm, 8 July 2021

Cleared by	Title	Time/Date cleared
Kendra Morony	First Assistant Secretary, Strategy	4:20pm, 8 July 2021
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Avp Director, Media Operations	

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under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [Media Operations](#)
Subject: RE: FOR INFO: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment. s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
[SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 8 July 2021 5:05:06 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Better - thanks

Regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Director, National Security and Crisis Communication

Media and Communication Branch | Executive Division

Department of Home Affairs

P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](#)

OFFICIAL

From: Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 5:03 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au
Cc: Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: FOR INFO: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment. s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

For your awareness, the line area further amended your first suggestion and accepted your second one (see tracked changes attached).

Thanks,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Media Operations

Media and Communication Branch | Executive Division

Department of Home Affairs

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Media line: 02 6264 2244 | **P:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au

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OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 4:39 PM
To: Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment_s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii),

A couple of questions about wording in the attached – once fixed, this is cleared

Regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Director, National Security and Crisis Communication
Media and Communication Branch | Executive Division
Department of Home Affairs
P: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au

OFFICIAL

From: Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 4:33 PM
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au
Cc: Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE: EN Effect of overseas migration on wages and employment_s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

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under the Freedom of Information Act 1982

Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

For your clearance, please see below/attached response to s. 22(1)(a)(ii).

This has been cleared by the Chief Economist and FAS Strategy, in consultation with Immigration Planning and Policy Framework Branch and Department of the Treasury.

Please note that the journo is seeking a response by 5pm.

- As the Governor's speech discusses, migration has broad benefits for the Australian economy, adding to the supply and the demand of labour. Recent modelling of the economic benefits of migration in the 2021 Intergenerational Report supports this.
- As the Governor noted, the labour market interactions of migration are complex, and the outcomes will depend on the specific circumstances.
- Studies of the Australian economy have consistently found no statistically significant relationship between wage growth and immigration (including the temporary skilled migration program).
- The Productivity Commission considered this issue in their 2016 inquiry on *Migrant Intake into Australia*. Research conducted by economists at the ANU as part of the inquiry found little evidence that the labour market outcomes of Australian born workers are negatively related to immigration.
- The Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) in its 2019 *Effects of temporary migration* report used modelling of ABS data to show that recently arrived migrants have not had a negative impact on the wages or participation rates of Australian-born workers. In some cases, an increase in migrant concentrations in certain levels of qualification and experience is associated with a positive impact on wages and employment.
- All employers nominating an applicant for a visa are required to pay a Skilling Australians Fund (SAF) levy. The SAF levy is used to fund training initiatives for Australians to meet skills needs, prioritising apprenticeships and traineeships in occupations that are in high demand, rely on skilled migration or have future growth potential, including in rural and regional Australia.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Public Affairs Officer

Australian Border Force Media and Communication

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Media and Communication Branch | Executive Division
Department of Home Affairs

Media line: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **P:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au

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OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 2:32 PM

To: Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>

Subject: Fwd: s. 22(1)(a) Media Enquiry[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Can the department prepare a draft response?

We'll probably top it with lines from the minister.

Many thanks.

Regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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under the Freedom of Information Act 1982

From: [Media Operations](#)
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: [Media Operations](#)
Subject: RESPONSE: s. 22(1) Media Enquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 8 July 2021 5:20:53 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Your enquiry has been referred to the Department of Home Affairs. The following response can be attributed to a Departmental spokesperson:

- As the Governor's speech discusses, migration has broad benefits for the Australian economy, adding to the supply and the demand of labour. Recent modelling of the economic benefits of migration in the 2021 Intergenerational Report supports this.
- As the Governor noted, the labour market interactions of migration are complex, and the outcomes will depend on the specific circumstances.
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Kind regards,

Media Operations

Department of Home Affairs

Media line: 02 6264 2244

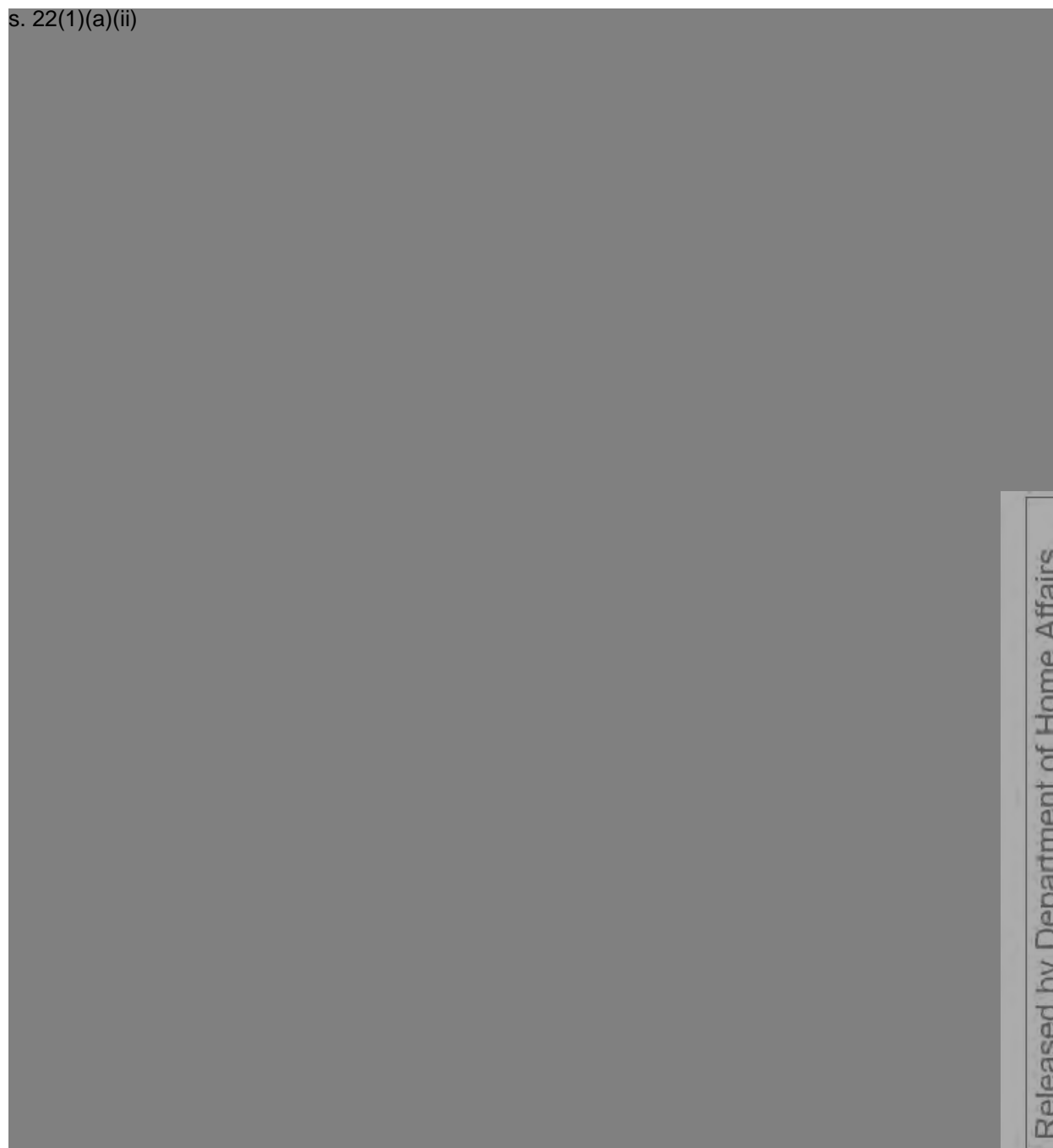
E: media@homeaffairs.gov.au

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)



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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [Media Operations](#)
Subject: Re: FOR NOTING: EN Affect of overseas migration on wages and employment_ s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 8 July 2021 5:21:48 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)

OFFICIAL

Actually, please hold.

Sent by Email+

OFFICIAL

From: "Media Operations" <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Date: Thursday, 8 July 2021 at 4:48:35 pm
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <[s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: FOR NOTING: EN Affect of overseas migration on wages and employment_ s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks s. 22(1)(a)(ii), will do.

Cheers,
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Media Operations
Media and Communication Branch | Executive Division
Department of Home Affairs
Media line: 02 6264 2244 | **P:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)

Acknowledgement of Country - signature block graphic 2020



OFFICIAL

From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au)>

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Sent: Thursday, 8 July 2021 5:18 PM
To: Media Operations <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: Re: FOR NOTING: EN Affect of overseas migration on wages and employment_s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi [redacted]. Can you please issue this from a departmental spokesperson?

Sent by Email+

OFFICIAL

From: "Media Operations" <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Date: Thursday, 8 July 2021 at 4:37:44 pm
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au
Cc: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @HOMEAFFAIRS.GOV.AU>, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>, "Cheryl-anne MOY" s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>, s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>, s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>, s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>, s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>, s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>, "Media Operations" <media@homeaffairs.gov.au>, "Sara VRH" s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>, s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @homeaffairs.gov.au>, s. 47E(d) @homeaffairs.gov.au>

Subject: FOR NOTING: EN Affect of overseas migration on wages and employment_s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi [redacted],
For your noting, please see below/attached response to [redacted] regarding the impact of overseas migration on wages and employment.

- ***
- As the Governor’s speech discusses, migration has broad benefits for the Australian economy, adding to the supply and the demand of labour. Recent modelling of the economic benefits of migration in the 2021 Intergenerational Report supports this.
 - As the Governor noted, the labour market interactions of migration are complex, and the outcomes will depend on the specific circumstances.
 - Studies of the Australian economy have consistently found no statistically significant relationship between wage growth and immigration (including the temporary skilled

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Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

****Please update the classification of the document if information provided in the background is above Official****

MEDIA ENQUIRY

Subject: Affect of overseas migration on wages and employment		
Deadline: 4:30pm, 8 July 2021		
Journalist: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Outlet: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	
Phone:	Mobile: 0409 447 025	Email: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Enquiry Received (Time & Date): 2:32pm, 8 July 2021		
Media Officer: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Media Ph: 02 6264 2244	

QUESTION / ISSUE

Journalist asked:

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

RESPONSE OFFICIAL

- As the Governor's speech discusses, migration has broad benefits for the Australian economy, adding to the supply and the demand of labour. Recent modelling of the economic benefits of migration in the 2021 Intergenerational Report supports this.
- As the Governor noted, the labour market interactions stemming from migration are complex, and the outcomes will depend on the specific circumstances.
- Studies of the Australian economy have consistently found no statistically significant relationship between wage growth and immigration (including the temporary skilled migration program).
- The Productivity Commission considered this issue in their 2016 inquiry on *Migrant Intake into Australia*. Research conducted by economists at the ANU as part of the inquiry found little evidence that the labour market outcomes of Australian born workers are negatively impacted by immigration.
- The Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) in its 2019 *Effects of temporary migration* report used modelling of ABS data to show that recently arrived migrants have not had a negative impact on the wages or participation rates of Australian-born workers. In some cases, an increase in migrant concentrations in certain levels of

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qualification and experience is associated with a positive impact on wages and employment.

- All employers nominating an applicant for a visa are required to pay a Skilling Australians Fund (SAF) levy. The SAF levy is used to fund training initiatives for Australians to meet skills needs, prioritising apprenticeships and traineeships in occupations that are in high demand, rely on skilled migration or have future growth potential, including in rural and regional Australia.

BACKGROUND NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

The journalists question stems from remarks contained in a speech by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia, Mr Phillip Lowe, at an Economic Society of Australia (Queensland) event on 8 July 2021. The relevant portion of his speech (highlight added on key section):

The second supply side factor is the ability that firms have had to draw on overseas workers when skills or workers were in short supply in Australia. In some cases, firms hired workers from overseas directly to fill specific gaps, but in other cases they hired people who were already in Australia for other reasons, including to study and on working holidays.

It is useful to distinguish the effects of this ability to draw on overseas labour markets from the impact of immigration more broadly. Immigration adds to both the supply of, and demand for, labour: when immigrants work they supply labour and their consumption of goods and services adds to the demand for labour. The precise balance between this extra labour supply and extra labour demand is difficult to determine and depends upon the specific circumstances.

The picture, though, is clearer when firms are hiring workers to overcome bottlenecks and fill specific gaps where workers are in short supply. This hiring dilutes the upward pressure on wages in these hotspots and it is possible that there are spillovers to the rest of the labour market. This hiring can also dilute the incentive for businesses to train workers to do the required job.

On the positive side of the ledger, hiring overseas workers to overcome bottlenecks allows firms to hire the people they need to operate effectively, and to expand and invest. This benefit was clearly evident during the resources boom, and there are a wide range of businesses and industries that have benefited from hiring foreign workers. Without this ability, output in Australia would have been lower.

At the time of the previous census (in 2016), there were around 430,000 people working in Australia on temporary visas. In the food trades, these workers filled around 18 per cent of all jobs; and in the hospitality sector, they filled 13 per cent of jobs (Graph 7). Most of these workers were on either temporary visas for skilled workers or student visas. In contrast, in the farm sector it was more common for workers to be on working holiday visas.

In conceptual terms, one can think of this ability to tap into the global labour market for workers that are in short supply as flattening the supply curve for these workers. A flat supply curve means that a shift in demand has only a small effect on prices, or in this case wages. In my view, this is one of the factors that has contributed to wages being less sensitive to shifts in demand than was once the case.

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CLEARANCE:

Drafted by	Title	Time/Date drafted
Robert Ewing	Chief Economist	3.30pm, 8 July 2021

Cleared by	Title	Time/Date cleared
Kendra Morony	First Assistant Secretary, Strategy	4:20pm, 8 July 2021
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, National Security and Crisis Comm	5pm, 8 July 2021

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From: Robert EWING
To: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: RE: Department of Home Affairs Daily Briefing 9 Jul 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 9 July 2021 8:52:00 AM
Attachments: image001.png

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[Home Affairs rejects RBA link between migration and wages \(afr.com\)](#)

Robert Ewing
Assistant Secretary | Chief Economist
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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 9 July 2021 8:08 AM
To: Robert EWING s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@homeaffairs.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Department of Home Affairs Daily Briefing 9 Jul 2021 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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According to the article from the SMH, Minister Hawke declined to comment on Dr Lowe’s speech as did the business council of Australia.

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From: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [Media Operations](#)
Subject: FILE NOTE [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 9 July 2021 11:26:46 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

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Spoke to s. 22(1)(a)(ii) over text to advise response has already gone back to the journalist. s. 22(1)(a)(ii) said it was all good.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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