

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

#### **Outcome 2 – Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000372**

**Senator Lines provided in writing.**

#### **Question**

##### **Ministerial Working Group on Protecting Vulnerable Visa Holders**

On this Ministerial Working group the Government announced on 15 October can you explain what the Department's role in this is?

Has the group met yet, if not when will it? What action has come of the meeting? What has it done? What timeframes are in place? When will there be a report? Will it be made public?

#### **Answer**

Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, Minister for Employment, announced the establishment of a Ministerial Working Group on Protecting Vulnerable Visa Holders on 15 October 2015. The Ministerial Working Group includes the Hon Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, the Hon Michael Keenan MP, Minister for Justice and the Assistant Treasurer, the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP.

The Department of Employment provides secretariat and policy support to the Ministerial Working Group and, with other relevant departments and agencies, will explore further options to address underpayment and exploitation of temporary visa holders, which may build on actions the Government has already taken on this issue, such as the formation of Taskforce Cadena.

The first meeting of the Ministerial Working Group on Protecting Vulnerable Visa Holders was on 20 October 2015. It will meet in each Parliamentary sitting fortnight at least until the end of the year.

Any public announcement on the outcomes of the Ministerial Working Group's deliberations is at the discretion of Ministers.