

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 24 March 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE17/246) - Labour Agreements and inflation - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Watt, Murray (L&CA 35) asked:

Senator WATT: Presumably, the dollar figure changes with inflation et cetera. Would it generally be the case, then, that temporary overseas workers are being paid fairly similarly whether they are in fine dining or fast food?

Mr Manthorpe: That is right, unless in fine dining they are paid materially more—I suspect, in some cases. I am speculating a bit there, Senator. I will have to take on notice the detail.

Answer:

Under all labour agreements, employers are required to demonstrate that terms and conditions of employment will be no less favourable than that provided, or that would be provided, to an Australian undertaking the same role at the same location.

As a result, if the market salary rate increases during an overseas worker's visa period, their salary would be required to be increased by an equivalent amount for the employer to meet their sponsorship obligations.