

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/172) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Cameron (Written) asked:

With reference to the Fair Work Ombudsman 457 Visa Monitoring – Detail Report for monitoring of Subclass 457 Visa conditions for the period between 18 September 2013 and 30 June 2014:

- a. Is the Department investigating the findings set out the report, namely, that in the case of identified Subclass 457 Visa holders:
 - i. 142 (7.8%) gave rise to nominated salary concerns;
 - ii. 80 (4.4%) gave rise to nominated position concerns
 - iii. 83 (4.5%) gave rise to both nominated salary and position concerns;
 - iv. 338 (18.6%) were no longer sponsored by the nominated sponsoring employer;
 - v. In 76 (4.3%) cases the employer sponsor could not be located;
 - vi. In 6 (0.3%) cases the employer failed to provide information?
- b. If the Department is investigating any or all of the matters referred to in 4. above, when did the Department commence the investigation/s and when will the investigation/s be finalised?
- c. If the department is not investigating any or all of the matters referred to in 4. above, why is not doing so?

Answer:

- a. The department examines all findings that are referred by the FWO through their monitoring activity. The report identifies sponsors who may have breached 457 sponsorship obligations. This is a trigger for the department to conduct a more thorough audit. As a result of this scrutiny, the department may or may not find a breach of the sponsorship obligations under the Migration Act.
- b. Given the number of visa holders in the report it is not feasible to list the dates that each case was considered and/or will be finalised.
- c. The department examines all findings that are referred by the FWO through their monitoring activity.