

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2012-13  
13 February 2013

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION.

**TOPIC:** Post-study work rights

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 13 February 2013, pages 87-88)

**QUESTION No.:** AI-44

**Senator NASH:** ...Just very briefly, do we have anyone that can deal with post-study work rights? I just want to talk about the eligibility of international students of higher education providers and the post-study work rights issue. I am trying to get a sense of what work is done to align the visas that are granted in relation to the work that is then available. How is that all determined?

**Ms Weddell:** I will try and go some way to answering that question.

**Senator NASH:** Do you understand what I mean? I am just very simply trying to get my head around what happens when we have these international students, they are granted a visa, they get a post-study work right and they can go out to work. I am just trying to see if there is a match between the visas and the actual work available or if there is a mismatch, if that helps.

**Ms Weddell:** It is very difficult to get a match, but there are various kinds of approaches, if you like, to try and get a match. It is a DIAC matter. The system is moving more and more towards an employer-based visa arrangement.

**Senator NASH:** So what you mean by that is that there would have to be a job before the visa is granted?

**Ms Weddell:** A sponsorship by an employer, so the match clearly becomes closer there.

**Senator NASH:** Did you say you are moving towards that?

**Ms Weddell:** Yes.

**Senator NASH:** So we are not there yet.

**Ms Weddell:** Yes, in some visa classes—not in others.

**Senator NASH:** Sorry to interrupt. I have two minutes left.

**Ms Weddell:** Sorry. Then, in others, it is far more open than that. Perhaps, because of the complexity of it, I might be able to take that on notice.

**Senator NASH:** Could you.

**Ms Weddell:** Yes.

**Senator NASH:** What I am very interested in is whether or not we have a situation where visas are granted and then the work is not available for the student who has been granted that visa, or if there is a time lag—all of those types of things. Could you take that on notice for me.

**Ms Weddell:** Sure. We will look at that.

## **ANSWER**

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship has responsibility for post study work visa arrangements and the question should be directed to that department.