

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2006-2007 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
29TH AND 30TH MAY 2006
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 3: Increased workforce participation

Output Group 3.2: Labour market strategies

Output 3.2.1: Labour market analysis

Question Number: W055-07

Question:

Senator Carr asked in writing:

DIMA has said the process of assessment of skills levels of visa 457 worker applicants is “more streamlined” than that for persons wishing to enter Australia under the General Skilled Migration program. Can you explain and contrast how DEWR approaches the assessment of skill levels and qualifications, when asked by DIMA, in the case of these two visa categories? Please provide examples as well as the general procedures and guidelines followed.

Answer:

- (a) Within DEWR, Trades Recognition Australia (TRA) is the relevant Australian assessing authority for a range of associate professional and trade occupations. TRA does not collect information on pre-migration skills assessment applications by visa subclass and does not, as part of its assessment process, distinguish between subclass 457 worker and General Skilled Migration Program applicants.
- (b) TRA conducts pre-migration skills assessments in accordance with its Uniform Assessment Criteria (UAC) available at <http://www.workplace.gov.au/tra>.