

**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

OFFICE OF WORKPLACE SERVICES

Question Number: W060-07

Question:

Senator Campbell asked in writing:

Can you provide details of your investigation, at the request of DIMA, of Maxitrans, Ballarat, Victoria, in relation to claims that workers on 457 visas were not receiving proper wages and entitlements? What were your findings?

Answer:

Sub-question 1: In general terms, an Office of Workplace Services (OWS) investigation will include interviews of affected employees, the employer (or its representative) and any other relevant parties (eg witnesses, professional advisers, labour hire companies, etc). Time and wages records, payslips and any other relevant evidence are also obtained in order to establish the facts and ensure compliance with relevant industrial obligations. This includes undertaking calculations on worker entitlements.

Sub-question 2: The outcome of the investigation into the underpayment allegations against MaxiTRANS Australia Pty Ltd was that the employer had paid its overseas workers in accordance with the *MaxiTRANS Australia Pty Ltd – Manufacturing Division Certified Agreement 2004*. The investigation has been closed.