

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

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**OFFICE OF WORKPLACE SERVICES**

**Question Number:** W231-07

**Question:**

Senator Carr asked in writing:

Can you provide details of the procedure you follow when cases are referred to your Department for investigation regarding workers' entitlements and awards by DIMA, with respect to visa subclass 457-holders? How many cases have you investigated each year since January 2000? In how many cases each year have breaches of awards or agreements or labour laws been found to have occurred? In how many cases each year have prosecutions eventuated?

**Answer:**

**Sub-question 1:** The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) refers relevant details to nominated contacts in the Office of Workplace Services (OWS). The allegations are then allocated to a workplace inspector. As appropriate, the OWS inspector will liaise with DIMA, including by undertaking joint site visits.

**Sub-question 2:** This information is not available. OWS records its investigations by the name of the employer and employee/claimant, not by whether they are a visa holder.

**Sub-question 3:** This information is not available for the same reasons as outlined in the answer to sub-question 2.

**Sub-question 4:** In 2005-06, OWS has initiated prosecutions against two employers that had sponsored subclass 457 visa holders. No other OWS prosecutions initiated since January 2000 have involved subclass 457 visa holders.