

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: Cross-sectoral

Output Group: Cross-sectoral

DEST Question No. E631_07

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

- a) Does DEST provide any advice to DIMA on a company's training record, to form part of DIMA's assessment to become a sponsor of skilled migrants? If so, on what matters does DEST advise? If not, what sort of information could DEST provide to DIMA on a company's training record, if they were asked?
- b) Do interdepartmental committees or working groups exist that would examine this issue, or have any been recently proposed? If so, what is their membership and how often do they meet?

Answer:

DEST's role in DIMA's assessment of company sponsorship requirements under Visa Subclass 457 arrangements including training records

- a) DIMA is responsible for all aspects of the management of the Visa Subclass 457 programme. This includes monitoring employers' compliance with sponsorship requirements.

DIMA consults with DEST to support its policy formulation and the development of processing instructions to case officers.

- b) At COAG's request, the Ministerial Council on Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (MCIMA) is examining current 457 Visa arrangements

To progress this, the Ministerial Council has tasked the Commonwealth/State Working Party on Skilled Migration to review all aspects of Visa Subclass 457 including employers' commitment to training Australians.

DIMA chairs and services this Working Party of which DEST is a Member.