

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

**2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
2ND NOVEMBER 2006
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 2: Higher productivity, higher pay workplaces

Output Group 2.1: Workplace relations policy and analysis

Output 2.1.1: Workplace relations policy advice

Question Number: W607-07

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

Has OWS the powers to enforce this process which is a clear abuse of the 457 visa program and demonstrates exploitation of the overseas worker?

Answer:

Sponsors of 457 visa holders must comply with federal or State workplace relations and occupational, health and safety legislation, industrial awards and workplace agreements. Workplace inspectors appointed under the *Workplace Relations Act 1996* (WR Act) have the power to enforce relevant provisions of the WR Act, the Australian Fair Pay and Conditions Standard and federal awards and agreements. State government inspectors have similar powers under State industrial relations and occupational health and safety legislation.

Estimated cost: Based on the FOI calculator it has taken approximately 3 hours at an estimated cost of \$60 to prepare this answer.