

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

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Outcome 2: Higher productivity, higher pay workplaces**

**Output Group 2.2: Workplace relations implementation**

**Output 2.2.1: Industry and Australian Government Employment Advice**

**Question Number: W612-07**

**Question:**

Senator Wong asked in writing:

Other Matters According to reports in the media on 30 October 2006, 'squads of inspectors in mobile strike teams' will be deployed in a crackdown on companies that exploit foreigners on temporary work visas. Will DEWR or the OWS be involved in these inspections? Will DEWR help to train these inspectors? If not, how will these inspectors know the entitlements of employees under the WorkChoices Act?

**Answer:**

Measures to prevent the exploitation of visa holders are the responsibility of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA).

The Office of Workplace Services (OWS) investigates all allegations of exploitation of workers in Australia brought to its attention, including workers holding temporary visas. In order to perform this function, OWS works closely with a range of Commonwealth agencies, including DIMA.

**Estimated cost:** Based on the FOI calculator it has taken approximately 2 hours at an estimated cost of \$40 to prepare this answer.