

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 FEBRUARY 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(52) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Ellison asked:

What work has been progressed to develop closer consultations between the employment and immigration departments in determining the intake of skilled migrants.

Answer:

Consultation between my Department and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) on matters relating to skilled migration is necessarily close and ongoing.

DEEWR is responsible for the labour market research which underpins the Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL), the Skilled Occupations List (SOL) and the Employer Nomination Scheme Occupation List (ENSOL). The MODL is used to target the General Skilled Migration intake to areas of highest need – it identifies skills which are in national shortage.

The legislative instrument that specifies the eligible occupations for the Subclass 457 visa is also jointly set through consultation between DEEWR and my Department.

DEEWR also sits on the Commonwealth State Working Party on Skilled Migration which meets at least twice a year.

DEEWR has been involved in all Council of Australian Governments (COAG) discussions and initiatives relating to skilled migration.