

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(AE12/0171) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration**

Senator Waters asked:

Has the Government undertaken or commissioned any analysis on these EMAs on the employment of Australians in these projects, or the broader economic and/or social implications of EMAs? If so, what were the findings of this analysis?

*Answer:*

The employment of Australians will be supported through the implementation of EMAs. Similar to the standard 457 program, EMAs can only be approved if there is a genuine need for overseas workers that cannot be met from the Australian labour market. The first priority of the project owners, therefore, must be the employment of Australian workers. Projects will also be required to commit to effective and ongoing local recruitment and training efforts as criteria for access to an EMA.

The report released in July 2010 by the National Resources Sector Employment Taskforce contained economic analysis which recommended the implementation of EMAs to ensure the efficient expansion of the resources sector. The recommendations were also designed to support job opportunities across the whole economy and to limit the impact of predicted skills shortages.