

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(104) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry**

Senator Carr asked:

In the Department's efforts to establish criteria that an employer should meet with regard to training Australians under the 457 visa program, has the Department had regard to the Apprenticeship Training Ratios that have been used by some State Government Departments?

*Answer:*

Sponsors under the subclass 457 programme include a multiplicity of employers from small sole trader operations through to large multinational companies. Given this variety, each case must be assessed on its own merits. The Department considers a number of different training modes in assessing whether the employer has demonstrated a satisfactory record of training Australians or a demonstrated commitment to do so. Factors the Department considers in assessing this record or commitment include the number of apprentice, trainee and graduates the employer has recruited in the past two years; contribution to scholarships in relevant courses of study; internal and external training programmes the employer has run, including the employment of in-house trainers; and courses the employer has funded for their Australian staff. The Department is seeking advice from the Department of Education, Science and Training, in the context of the report requested by COAG, on further refining the training requirement, possibly including any ratios that state governments may have developed or are developing.