

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(115) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Carr asked:

1. Can you provide details of any complaints you have received about inadequate wages and/or conditions involving tradespersons from developed countries where wage levels are similar to those in Australia?
2. Have you commissioned or conducted, or are you aware of, any research into comparative wage levels in the skilled trades between Australia and other developed countries? Please provide details.

Answer:

1. The Department is aware of six complaints made by South African, British and German 457 visa holders against their sponsors. The allegations include under payment, excessive hours of work and incorrect payment of award and penalty rates. These allegations are currently being investigated by the Department and have been referred to the relevant state or federal agency such as Office of Workplace Services, Department of Consumer Employment Protection (WA) or the Department of Industrial Relations (QLD).
2. The Department has not commissioned or conducted any research into the comparative wage levels in the skilled trades between Australia and other developed countries.