

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(117) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Carr asked:

Does the Department have a view about ex-officials setting up as migration agents and/or intermediaries to facilitate temporary entry to Australia under various skilled migration programs? Are you aware of reports that some ex DIMA officials are charging large commissions to bring workers in under these programs? What information does DIMA have on these matters?"

Answer:

There are no obstacles to former DIMA officers becoming registered migration agents, providing they meet the requirements for registration as determined by the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA). As migration agents, they provide clients with information on the full range of visa options. They provide advice on the options that best meet the needs of their clients. To improve consumer protection, the MARA website publishes indicative fees charged by migration agents. Commissions charged by recruitment and/or migration agents for visa applications are a private agreement between the client and the agent. The Migration Agents Code of Conduct requires registered migration agents to act ethically.