

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(125) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Carr asked:

Can you confirm that regional employers who hope to become sponsors under visa subclass 457 arrangements need only to seek certifying from a Regional Certifying Body if and when they are seeking a concession on salary or skill levels? Or do these employers need to seek certification every time they wish to become a sponsor, whether or not they are seeking these concessions?

Answer:

A regional employer seeking to nominate positions under the subclass 457 programme only needs to seek certification from a Regional Certifying Body (RCB) where they wish to make use of the regional concessions available for skills or salary.

If the nominated position is on Schedule B or C of the subclass 457 gazette notice and the nominated salary is greater than the applicable standard minimum salary level, then they do not need to seek RCB certification. If either of these is not met, then RCB certification is required.