

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(23) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Carr (L&C 34) asked:

Would you regard the ratio of 8 apprentices for 160 tradespeople as normal in the building industry for a company of that size?

Answer:

The number of apprentices is a consideration when assessing the commitment to training. Other factors include the numbers of recent graduates, numbers of trainees, number of formal training courses, expenditure on formal training, contributions to training programmes and the business's training programmes. All of these factors must be weighted up when assessing commitment to training.

Whether 8 apprentices for 160 tradespeople is normal or not would be a matter best addressed to the Department of Education, Science and Training.