

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

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

Senator Lundy (L&C 82) asked:

How many of the 40 restaurants that the Office of Workplace Services is currently investigating also host migrant workers under a 457 visa?

*Answer:*

As at 8 August 2006, the Office of Workplace Services (OWS) had identified 48 restaurants (in addition to the four investigated earlier) in Canberra as being in breach of workplace legislation (ie underpayment, not keeping timesheets, not providing payslips). Five of these restaurants have sponsored overseas skilled workers on the Temporary Business (Long Stay) 457 visa and one has a visa holder on a Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) visa. The audit is still ongoing.

Our working arrangements with OWS are such that if there are any breaches found by OWS in respect of temporary overseas skilled workers, DIMA will be notified by OWS. Depending on the nature of the breach and once OWS has finalised the matter, the Department will then consider whether it should apply its own sanctions. In the interim, none of these restaurants would be able to recruit any more overseas workers because of the changed circumstances surrounding their sponsor status.