

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(86) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Webber asked:

I understand that the documentation for a 457 application sponsorship says that a person is to be paid weekly – that seems a little outdated in terms of how almost all Australian businesses now operate doesn't it?

Answer:

The Department recognises the right of employers and employees to negotiate their own pay regularity in accordance with workplace laws. The Department monitors and conducts targeted site visits of sponsors to test, among other factors, whether minimum salary requirements are being met. To ensure that 457 entrants are paid at least the minimum acceptable in the Australian context for a skilled worker, there is a requirement that all Subclass 457 visa holders' salaries be paid as a regular periodic payment. This approach acknowledges that varying standards exist across industries.