

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(94) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Carr asked:

1. I want to raise some issues connected to the Regional Certifying Bodies that, in various regions, responsible for nominating employers and occupations with respect to the 457 visa program. There are 53 of these bodies. Of those, how many would you say are government bodies, apart from local government bodies?
2. How many are purely private-sector employer organisations – Chambers of Commerce and the like?
3. How many are local councils or groupings of local councils?

Answer:

Gazettal of Regional Certifying Bodies in each state follows a process of consultation with the relevant state government. There are currently 55 Regional Certifying Bodies, of which:

1. 34 are state/territory government bodies. A further two are Area Consultative Committees.
2. 13 are chambers of commerce, development associations and similar sorts of bodies.
3. Six are local councils or groupings of local councils. Additionally, local councils have representation on the boards of a number of the other Regional Certifying Bodies, including chambers of commerce, development associations, etc.