

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 May 2007

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### (167) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Ludwig asked:

1. Which ASCO occupations does the Department consider to be 'highly skilled'?
2. During a Senate Estimates Hearing on May 21 2007, at (L&CA 62) departmental officer Mr Parsons stated in regards to ASCO groups that 'One to four is the higher group – parts of four...' Which occupations and ASCO levels contained in ASCO group 4 does the Department classify as highly skilled?
3. What differentiates those ASCO 4 occupations classified as 'highly skilled' from those not? How is the determination made?

Is ASCO code 4921-11 a 'highly skilled' occupation?

Is ASCO code 4122-15 a 'highly skilled' occupation?

Is ASCO code 4513-11 a 'highly skilled' occupation?

*Answer:*

The Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO) dictionary is an ABS publication which is used by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) for migration purposes. More generally it is used by government departments and agencies for research and statistical purposes. ASCO contains 9 major groups of occupations ranging from skilled (ASCO Major Groups 1 to 4) to less-skilled (ASCO Major Groups 5 to 7) and unskilled (ASCO Major Groups 8 to 9)

1. For migration purposes we use a sub-set of ASCO groups 1-4 known as the Skilled Occupation List (SOL). The SOL was compiled by DIAC in consultation with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) and other departments and agencies.
2. Some occupations which appear in ASCO groups 1-4 are not on the SOL. They are excluded because they :
  - are occupations for which Australian citizenship is a pre-requisite for employment; and/or
  - are already targeted through other visa categories such as the Business Skills and Distinguished Talent categories or
  - are better targeted through employer sponsored categories.

3. DIAC does not make determinations about the relative skill levels of different ASCO occupations. The occupations which are excluded from the SOL (even though they fall into ASCO groups 1-4) are excluded because of factors outlined above.

ASCO 4921-11 is not included on the SOL, but is included on the Employer Nomination Scheme list of occupations.

ASCO 4122-15 Skilled and on SOL.

ASCO 4513-11 Skilled and on SOL.