

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 28 MAY 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(32) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Ellison (L&CA 67) asked:

How many labour agreements have been refused or approved since December 2007?

Answer:

From December 2007 to 13 June 2008, the following labour agreements have been finalised:

- Meat industry template agreements – 5 finalised (3 in the process of being signed).
- On-hire industry template agreements – 11 finalised (6 in the process of being signed).
- Non template labour agreements – 3 finalised (2 in the process of being signed).

“Non template labour agreements” refer to labour agreements negotiated with individual companies or an industry association, the terms and conditions of which are negotiable. “Template labour agreements” are non negotiable, and are the only pathways to the Subclass 457 visa program for the meat and on-hire industries.

Three requests to access the on-hire industry labour agreement were not approved as the companies did not meet the terms and conditions. Of the three companies involved, one was seeking to on-hire occupations outside ASCO Major Groups 1-4; one was based overseas and therefore ineligible; and the other withdrew their request.