

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: MAY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(20) Program 1.1: Migration and Visa Policy

Senator Humphries (L&C 55) asked:

How many Labour Agreements have been refused outright?

Answer:

- The Department applies great rigour to the assessment of requests for a labour agreement.
- In most cases, an employer will either be granted access to a labour agreement or will withdraw during the negotiation process.
- The Department has also ceased negotiations with a number of employers due to the employer failing to provide relevant information in support of their proposed labour agreement, despite being requested by the Department to provide the information over a period of time.
- In the 12 months to 31 May 2010, only six requests for a labour agreement have been declined by the Minister. These six requests were from companies seeking access to a non-template agreement. Five of these six requests were for the recruitment of overseas workers in ASCO 6 occupations.