

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0077) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Brown (L&CA 28-30) asked:

What due diligence or study of the ethics of Ta Ann in its home country, particularly Sarawak, in Malaysia, was undertaken by the department before the visas were issued?

Answer:

Ta Ann Tasmania Pty Ltd, ABN 58 115 743 345, is an Australian company. As the Australian entity is the sponsor and direct employer of the subclass 457 workers, information relating to the Malaysian parent company would only be considered if there was *adverse information* known about this company.

Adverse information has a defined legislative meaning. It means information relating to a contravention of law relevant to the applicant's suitability as a sponsor including in the areas of discrimination, immigration, industrial relations, occupational health and safety, people smuggling, taxation, terrorism, trafficking in persons and debt bondage, slavery, sexual servitude and deceptive recruiting.

For a company to be approved as a standard business sponsor there must be no *adverse information* known about the business or a person associated with the business, unless the Minister or his delegate considers it reasonable to disregard the *adverse information*.