

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23 MAY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0079) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

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

How many local people have benefited from the training for the positions of wood machinists, mechanical engineering technicians and production managers, and has that training led to the ability to repatriate the immigrant semiskilled workers or skilled workers; and, if not, why not?

Answer:

In order to be approved to be a Standard Business Sponsor in 2008, Ta Ann was required to demonstrate that they:

- had a satisfactory record, or demonstrated commitment towards training Australian citizens and Australian permanent residents in the operations of the business in Australia; or
- would introduce to, or utilise or create in, Australia new or improved technology or business skills.

Based on current records, the Department is unable to quantify how many local people benefited from training conducted by Ta Ann and whether this led directly to the repatriation of overseas workers.

Ta Ann's sponsorship agreement has now expired and it is not able to employ any new 457 visa holders.

Should Ta Ann wish to employ new workers under the 457 program it would need to meet more stringent training benchmarks which require concrete, quantifiable evidence of the company's contribution to the training of Australian citizens and permanent residents. These new training benchmarks were introduced by the Government in 2009.