

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 23 - 24 MAY 2011**

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

**(BE11/0133) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration**

Senator Cash (written) asked:

What is the role of Unions in these agreements?

*Answer:*

Employers must provide evidence that likely affected stakeholders have been given an opportunity to comment on a labour agreement proposal.

The Department requires that, at a minimum, the employer consult with an organisation that best represents the interests of the employer and an organisation that best represents the interests of the employees. The most appropriate union is offered an opportunity to provide comment. Any union comment is considered and where there is a negative response to the labour agreement proposal, the Department offers the employer an opportunity to respond. The views of a union will not provide a veto to a labour agreement proposal.