

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0212) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Xenophon asked:

Labour agreements: Could you provide the Delegate's reasons for entering into the cabin crew labour agreement with Jetstar, as well as any conditions that applied?

Answer:

The Jetstar labour agreement expired on 2 May 2011 and the company has not approached the Department for a subsequent agreement.

The original agreement was approved on the basis that Jetstar's Japanese customers, on the airline's routes between Australia and Japan, expected service by cabin crew who were native Japanese speakers.

The specific terms of the agreement are commercial-in-confidence but, in general terms, the Department can advise that cabin crew sponsored under the agreement had appropriate qualifications, experience and English language proficiency.

Jetstar was required to provide full-time positions for these workers and pay either the relevant award/industrial instrument or the Minimum Salary Level in place at the time, whichever was the greater.

Jetstar was also required to adhere to a structured training plan with oversight by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations which included employing recent Australian graduates, trainees and graduates, and spending a proportion of payroll expenditure on training Australian employees.