

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0215) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Xenophon asked:

Pilots: During the hearing, when I asked: "...are we suffering a pilot shortage or only a shortage of pilots who are prepared to accept some operators' conditions of service? Is that relevant in the context of a 457 visa?" One of the responses was that "it is more for the relevant agency." If DIAC is not the relevant agency, who is? What is the division of responsibility between agencies?

Answer:

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) undertakes labour market and skills shortage research for the development and operation of a range of employment, education and training programs. This has previously included research for air transport professionals and aircraft maintenance engineers.

The Department consults with DEEWR and other departments on potential changes to the composition of the list of occupations for the 457 visa. As the primary criterion for inclusion is that the occupation is skilled, DEEWR's advice mainly relates to skill levels for particular occupations.