

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0021) PROGRAM – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Abetz (L&CA 49) asked:

Senator ABETZ: All right, thank you. I think that tells us what we need to know. Can I move on. Has the department been tasked by the government to either have a look or draft legislation in relation to providing Australian workers with a right of appeal if they miss out on jobs filled by foreign workers on 457 visas?

Mr Bowles: Not to my knowledge, no.

Senator ABETZ: Minister, is it government policy for there to be such a legislated right of appeal?

Senator Lundy: Not that I am aware of. I will take that on notice.

Senator ABETZ: Yes, if you could. Specifically I am referring to an article on page 1 of The Australian on 22 May 2013, where there was this push by the CFMEU. So I just wanted—

Senator Lundy: I am happy to take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department has not been tasked with examining or drafting legislation to provide Australian workers with a right of appeal for positions filled by overseas workers on Subclass 457 visas.