

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(104) Output 1.1 Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Carr (L&CA written) asked:

The Department is seeking the power to obtain payroll data from the ATO with respect to 457 visa holders and their employers.

1. Have you held discussions with the ATO over this matter? Have you held discussions with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner over this matter? What have been the outcomes of these discussions?
2. Are you seeking to obtain simply information about whether a sponsoring employer is paying 457 visa holders at or above the current Minimum Salary Level (MSL)? Or would you want to check also whether a sponsoring employer is paying above any relevant award or enterprise agreement?
3. If the latter, would DEWR also be involved in this exercise? How? If not, how would the Department ascertain whether a prevailing award or certified agreement provided for wages above the MSL?
4. If you do not intend to check that 457 visa holders are being paid at or above the rates prescribed in relevant award or agreements, why do you not intend to do this?

Answer:

The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs is participating in the Treasury Review of the Taxation Secrecy Provisions. This is a whole of government review working all relevant agencies. It would be inappropriate to comment on any possible outcomes of the review.