

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(107) Output 1.1 Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Carr (L&CA written) asked:

Have you entered into arrangements with state/territory agencies to undertake compliance checking, including site visits, or other aspects of compliance checking? Please provide details.

Answer:

The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) conducts activities in relation to sponsor compliance with subclass 457 sponsorship undertakings. Where DIMA identifies issues that may be of concern to other Commonwealth, State or Territory government agencies, it refers the matter to the relevant agency to allow them to determine whether there are any compliance issues within their jurisdiction.

DIMA has effective working relationships with many relevant State and Territory agencies on subclass 457 visa compliance activities, particularly those responsible for workplace safety, industrial relations and law enforcement.

The department seeks to strengthen these relationships. In August 2006, DIMA initiated and led working group meetings which comprised representatives from relevant State and Territory agencies to discuss the development of protocols on these matters. These discussions were held in a spirit of co-operation and are continuing.