

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(112) Output 1.1 Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Carr (L&CA written) asked:

Payment of upfront fees by workers from China, QON 57

1. What measures has DIMA taken to stamp out these practices?
2. Which agencies, here and overseas, have been involved or approached?

Answer:

1. These agencies are registered by the Chinese Government and operate under the sovereign law of that Government. The department intends to continue to engage the Chinese Government on the issue of Chinese employment agencies charging very high fees. Where such agents charge fees for employment/placement services provided in Australia, this activity may be contrary to relevant state legislation. DIMA refers such instances to the relevant state agency.
2. The department has been in contact overseas with the Chinese Ministry of Labour and Social Security as well as the Chinese Embassy in Australia.