

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(118) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Carr asked:

1. What are the reasons for the sudden growth in slaughterpersons – from fewer than 5 in 2003-04 to 950 last year?
2. What are the reasons for the number of metal fabricators growing from 10 in 2002-03 to 790 last year?
3. Why has the number of welders grown from 40 to 710?
4. Why have motor mechanics increased from 100 to 540?
5. Why do these trends differ so markedly from those related to managers, where numbers have actually been noticeably decreasing?

Answer:

The growth in these occupations has taken place most strongly in WA and Queensland and to a lesser degree SA.

This suggests that the mining and resources boom and the stronger economies of these states in 2005-06, may have led to a greater demand for people in a range of trade occupations.

Employers in these states have reported losing tradesmen to mining and resources companies and as a result finding it harder to recruit tradesmen in the local labour market.