

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(120) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Carr asked:

What is your response to the claim of the President of the Australian Computing Society, Mr Philip Argy, before the Joint Standing Committee on Migration, that only 12% of skilled migrant computing workers have skills that are genuinely in shortage in Australia?

Answer:

The statement made by Mr Argy at the Joint Standing Committee on Migration 23 November 2005 was made with reference to the total number of visas granted in 2002-2003 to skilled migrant (i.e. permanent resident) computing workers.

In 2002 the Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL) included several ICT occupations. One of these in particular was of a general nature. This encouraged the migration of Computing Professionals with general programming skills. Mr Argy's testimony was highlighting the need for a more granular classification system for Computer Professionals and his testimony also mentioned that his suggestions in this area had been taken up by DIMA.

Following consultations between DIMA and the Australian Computer Society, the general classification of computing professionals was taken off the MODL in February 2003. As of 20 September 2006 the MODL includes 9 highly specialised classifications of Computing Professional as follows:

- Computing Professional – specialising in C++/C#/C
- Computing Professional – specialising in CISSP
- Computing Professional – specialising in Java
- Computing Professional – specialising in J2EE
- Computing Professional – specialising in Network Security
- Computing Professional – specialising in Oracle
- Computing Professional – specialising in PeopleSoft
- Computing Professional - specialising in SAP
- Computing Professional - specialising in SIEBEL