

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(124) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry**

Senator Carr asked:

Can you confirm that the minimum salary levels (MSL) that apply under the 457 visa program are determined by the Minister for Immigration?

*Answer:*

The Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, gazettes the Minimum Salary Levels (MSLs) that apply under the Subclass 457 visa programme. The standard MSL is based on Australian Bureau of Statistics average weekly earnings data and is set by the Minister in consultation with the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations. The MSL for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) professionals is based on a series of annual salary surveys commissioned for the ICT industry and is set in consultation with the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations. The regional MSL recognises that, while there is some variation in salaries between States and Territories and industries, the average salaries in non-metropolitan areas are generally lower than the Australian average. The regional MSL is set by the Minister in consultation with the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations and is 10 per cent below the standard MSL.