

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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

**IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**

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

Senator Carr asked:

At the Estimates hearing of 22/5/06, the Minister said that the Government had no plans to extend the 457 visa program to cover unskilled workers.

1. Does this mean that the claims of the company Skillforce International (on its website) that 'is able to provide [457 visa] workers from a broad spectrum of trades .... [including] unskilled agricultural trades...' is false and misleading?
2. Are you aware of this claim/what action have you taken to rectify this situation? What action will you take? Please provide the Committee with a report.

*Answer:*

1. Any claim regarding unskilled workers would be false and misleading.
2. The Department has written to Skillforce International Pty Ltd to reinforce that unskilled agricultural roles are inappropriate for the Subclass 457 programme and cannot be approved. As Skillforce International Pty Ltd is a member of the Recruitment & Consulting Services Association (RCSA), the Department has also written to the RCSA on this matter.