

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

#### IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

#### (145) Output 1.1 Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Webber (L&CA written) asked:

1. Which abattoirs in WA are employing and/or have been granted approval to employ overseas workers on 457 visas?
2. Can you tell me the number of 457 visas for each of these abattoirs?
3. Has the Department verified that the employees are working in the occupational categories their visa has been granted for?
4. With reference to answer 4 to question on notice 81 from the last round of estimates, can the Department now confirm that the investigations have been completed and report on the accuracy of the complaints and what action has been taken?
5. With reference to answer 5 to question on notice 81, is the "expanded workforce" a local workforce?
6. Does the Department check that each abattoir is working in compliance with the conditions on their application prior to approval for the visas being granted?

*Answer:*

1. The following eight meat companies in WA are employing or have been granted approval to employ overseas workers on 457 visas:

Derby Industries Pty Ltd
Fletcher International Wa
Geraldton Meat Exporters Pty Ltd
Goldlevel Enterprises Pty Ltd
JSA Jackson & Son Pty Ltd
V And V Walsh Wholesale Butchers
Western Australian Meat Marketing Co-Operative Ltd
Westpork Pty
International Exporters (under Western Australia Labour Agreement)

2. The number of primary 457 applications granted for each of these companies is:

<b>Meat Sponsor</b>	<b>2005-06</b>
Derby Industries Pty Ltd	24
International Exporters	16

Fletcher International Wa	202
Geraldton Meat Exporters Pty Ltd	0
Goldlevel Enterprises Pty Ltd	3
JSA Jackson & Son Pty Ltd	20
V And V Walsh Wholesale Butchers	1
Western Australian Meat Marketing Co-Operative Ltd	39
Westpork Pty	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>316</b>

3. The Department has requested all sponsors in the meat industry undertake an independent assessment to demonstrate compliance with the programme. This assessment will include consideration of the skilled nature of employment of subclass 457 primary visa holders.
4. The above independent assessments are being arranged by relevant meat companies and the Meat Industry National Training Advisory Council (MINTRAC).
5. Employees include local, interstate and international workers.
6. The Department considers all applications in accordance with the Migration Regulations. To be a sponsor under the 457 programme, the employer must meet certain criteria. These include demonstrating that:
  - a. they are actively and lawfully operating a business in Australia;
  - b. they will provide some benefit to Australia through the employment of visa 457 holders;
  - c. they will be the direct employer of the visa 457 holder, unless the sponsor and employer are related companies;
  - d. they have a good training record or a commitment to training or will introduce or utilise new technology to Australia;
  - e. nothing adverse is known about their business background and they have a satisfactory record of compliance with immigration laws; and
  - f. they will be able to meet their sponsorship undertakings for each visa 457 holder they nominate (and for each visa 457 secondary applicant), including compliance with workplace relations laws, remuneration at Australian levels and responsibility for health care and repatriation costs.

The bona fides of the employer responses to these criteria are considered as part of processing their application for sponsorship. The department also undertakes targeted post-arrival monitoring and site visits. Where appropriate, more detailed investigations are undertaken including thorough audit undertaken by independent experts or referral of matters to relevant Commonwealth/State agencies.