QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(154) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Ludwig asked:

DIMA Deputy Secretary, Mr Rizvi referred to the application of penalties for breach of the conditions of the 457 visa in evidence before the Committee on 30 October 2006:

"The application of penalties through the Migration Act is dependent to some degree on – and we take a lead from – what the relevant state or Commonwealth industrial relations agency penalties apply".

Based on the evidence of the Deputy Secretary does DIMA take further action against a 457 sponsor if the relevant state or Commonwealth agency decides not to investigate or act on a DIMA referral?

Answer:

When initiating 457 visa monitoring, DIMA assesses the sponsor against all sponsorship undertakings. If a breach of the undertakings is identified appropriate sanction action will be taken.