

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(167) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Evans asked:

Mr Zhang – employed at Aprint in Melbourne

1. When was the Department first made aware of allegations over potential breaches of the 457 visa conditions in relation to these cases?
2. How was the Department made aware of these allegations, e.g. individual came forward, third party notified the Department, other agency notified the Department?
3. When was the Minister first briefed about the potential breaches in these cases?
4. On what date did the Department first interview the 457 holders concerned in these cases? Were those interviews carried out at the employers address?
5. Has the Department conducted any interviews of the 457 holders concerned away from the employer's address?
6. When did the Department first conduct a site visit to investigate these cases?
7. Did the employer concerned at any time refuse permission for the Department to enter the premises?
8. When did the Department issue a notice of intention to sanction the employer (if they did)?
9. When did the employer respond to the notice of intention to sanction?
10. When did the Department make a decision on whether to apply a sanction to the employer?
11. What sanction (if any) was applied to the employer? Are they still subject to that sanction?
12. Is the employer currently still employing people on 457 visas?
13. When did the employer last receive approval from the Department to employ someone on a 457 visa? i.e. when were they approved to sponsor the last 457 visa holder?

Answer:

- 1 The department was first made aware of allegations over potential breaches of the 457 visa conditions on 22 August 2006.
- 2 The department was made aware of these allegations as the individual, Mr Zhang approached the department.
- 3 The Minister was first briefed about the potential breaches in this case on 6 September 2006.
- 4 The department first interviewed the visa holder on 22 August 2006 at the DIMA Melbourne office.

- 5 Yes, Mr Zhang the visa holder was interviewed twice in DIMA's Melbourne office.
- 6 DIMA first attempted to visit the APrint site on the morning of 6 September 2006.
- 7 When DIMA visited APrint on the morning of 6 September 2006 the directors of the sponsor company were not available.
- 8 A Notice of Intent to Consider Sanctioning was sent to the employer on 6 October 2006.
- 9 The department received a response from the employer on 16 November 2006.
- 10 The department made a decision to sanction on 2 January 2007.
- 11 The sanction decision includes sponsorship bar for 5 years.
- 12 Yes, the employer currently still employs 457 visa holders and will be subject to repeat monitoring to ensure compliance in respect of the remaining 457 visa holders.
- 13 The last nomination for a visa holder was approved on 1 June 2006. The last sponsorship agreement was approved on 19 May 2006.