

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(31) Output 1.1 Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Carr (L&CA 42) asked:

1. How many staff would you have monitoring these meat employers' practices and meat industry workplaces?
2. How many people do you currently have dedicated to the meat industry?
3. How many would have expertise in dealing with the meat industry?

Answer:

1. As at 9 June 2006, 45 officers were dedicated to monitoring business sponsors around Australia. These officers are not dedicated to one industry or issue. Additional staff from the Business Centres, Regional Outreach Officers and Compliance officers may assist in investigations and site visits where necessary. Records of the number of staff and the amounts of time spent specifically on the meat industry are not held.
2. There are no officers currently dedicated solely to the meat industry. Officers on- and off-shore, in policy and processing areas across the Department, as well as in monitoring and compliance areas, service all industries. Records of the number of staff and the amounts of time spent specifically on the meat industry are not held.
3. DIMA officers dealing with the meat industry will have expertise in the Migration Regulations, as these apply to all industries. Officers acquire subject matter expertise relating to the meat industry over time and with exposure to the industry. Records on the level of expertise thus obtained are not held.