

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(88) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Conroy asked:

1. Is there any requirement for employers seeking to sponsor a 457 visa applicant for employment to first advertise the role to Australian residents?
2. Is there any requirement for employers seeking to sponsor a 457 visa applicant to demonstrate that there are no Australian residents capable of fulfilling the role before offering the job to a temporary work visa holder?

Answer:

- 1 The formal requirement for advertising has progressively been abolished in favour of skill and salary thresholds, since the 1994-95 report into temporary business entry. This approach is a more efficient way of striking the right balance between encouraging employers to hire and train Australians first and giving employers access to a global pool of skills, noting that that there are significant additional costs associated with recruiting from overseas.
- 2 Australians are potentially capable of doing any job. However, given that skilled unemployment levels in Australia are currently less than 2%, we are facing declining rates of growth in the working age population and job creation in recent years has been averaging around 180,000 per annum, on occasions employers have to look overseas for the skills they need.