

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(90) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Conroy asked:

If 457 visa holders are being brought in to work in Australia in areas of skill shortage, why is there a need to set mandatory minimum wages for these employers?

Answer:

In the absence of formal labour market testing, the MSL is set above entry level award wages and graduate salaries in skilled occupations to ensure that Australian workers are not displaced by sub-class 457 visa holders.