

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 OCTOBER 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(35) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Ellison (L&CA 74) asked:

In relation to 457s, do you have statistics on those people who enter Australia without the skills they purport to have? Someone says that they are a welder and they come under that guise, if you like, and basically they are frauds. They might have done it on the basis that they thought they were qualified, but they were not by our standards. Do you have any statistics on that?

Answer:

No statistics are available on this issue. The Department can refer applications to overseas posts for a range of reasons, including verification of qualifications and work experience, where the decision maker has any cause to doubt the bona fides of the applicant.

Once the Department is notified of a cessation of work, for whatever reason, procedures are followed to ensure the visa holder either maintains their lawful status, or departs Australia. Where doubt exists about skills, a notation is made on departmental systems to that effect.