

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: OCTOBER 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(145) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration**

Senator Cash asked:

- (1) Are there any restrictions surrounding the lodgement of a 457 visa application to a Centre of Excellence?
- (2) If so, what are the policy reasons for this?

*Answer:*

- (1) Persons seeking to apply for a subclass 457 visa with an onshore standard business sponsor can lodge their application either online or, where the applicant is unable to access the internet, via paper form.

Applicants who seek to lodge their application via paper may do so at any DIAC office in Australia. The receiving office will ensure that the application is forwarded to the relevant 457 Centre of Excellence within 24 hours to begin processing.

Where the person is seeking to apply for a subclass 457 visa with an offshore standard business sponsor, the applicant is required to complete a paper form, and lodge their application at any Australian mission (in person, by post or by courier).

Applications in relation to an offshore standard business sponsorship are then transferred to the mission where the sponsorship was processed.

- (2) Requiring applicants for a subclass 457 visa with an offshore standard business sponsor to lodge their visa application at an offshore mission facilitates the expedited transfer of their application to the mission where the sponsorship was processed. Processing the visa application at the same location as the sponsorship harnesses the knowledge and experience of local staff and helps to ensure consistent processing standards and good quality end-to-end service for clients applying for a subclass 457 visa.