

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

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

Senator Cash asked:

- (1) What were the reasons given for any Labour Agreements declined by the Minister?
- (2) Were these proposed Labour Agreements inconsistent with the template agreement?

*Answer:*

- (1) There were only seven instances in 2009-2010 where the Commonwealth exercised its discretion to not enter into a Labour Agreement.

A Labour agreement request is not an application and there is no set list of requirements which an employer must meet to gain access to a Labour Agreement. Each individual request is decided on the basis of negotiations between the employer or industry and the Commonwealth as represented by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

In the cases where a Labour Agreement request was declined, the Commonwealth exercised its discretion to not enter into a Labour Agreement.

- (2) None of the Labour Agreement requests that were declined related to industry templates.