

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

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

Senator Cash asked:

What progress has been made on the development of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with Commonwealth, and State and Territory agencies to facilitate the sharing of information for the purposes of monitoring compliance with regulatory requirements administered by the Department?

*Answer:*

The Commonwealth has negotiated a number of MOUs with Commonwealth and state and territory government agencies to facilitate the sharing of information for the purposes of monitoring compliance with regulatory requirements (both those administered by DIAC and the respective agency), by business sponsors and visa holders under the Subclass 457 visa program.

The Department currently has MOUs signed with Workcover NSW, Worksafe Victoria, the NSW Department of Commerce, the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney General and the Australian Taxation Office.

MOUs with occupational health and safety regulators in other states and territories are at varying stages of discussion or negotiation.

The Department also has a second MOU with the Australian Taxation Office for the purposes of locating unlawful non-citizens.

The Department is not limited in its exchange of information with regulatory agencies to those with which it holds an MOU. Regular exchanges of information occur with regulatory agencies under Sections 140ZH and 140ZI of the *Migration Act 1958* where it is necessary for the purposes of the Department performing a regulatory function or assisting another agency to perform a regulatory function.