

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

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

Senator Abetz (L&CA 32) asked:

Are references required for sporting visas?

*Answer:*

Sports people who wish to enter Australia on a Sports (Subclass 421) visa as a player or trainee under a formal arrangement/contract with a sporting organisation in Australia must provide evidence that they:

- will be a “benefit to sport in Australia”;
- have an “established reputation” in their field of sport; and
- have a letter of endorsement from the Australian national sporting body.

For contracted players, the Sport sponsor must show that the nominated person has the ability to compete at Australian national competition level or higher.

For trainees, the Sport sponsor must show that the nominated person has the ability to compete at the national level in his or her home country.

Unless there is evidence to suggest otherwise, Visa Processing Officers (VPOs) may consider this criterion satisfied on the basis of the letter of endorsement from the national sporting body.

However, to ensure that the “benefit to sport in Australia” and “established reputation” criterion are met, VPOs may request further information such references, resumes, competition history, career statistics and/or media articles. They may also conduct internet searches of the nominated persons sporting history.

Sports competitors who wish to enter Australia on a Subclass 421 visa to participate in sporting events need only provide evidence that they are entered individually or as a team member to compete in a sporting event or series of sporting events.

The nomination application for all Subclass 421 applicants (*Nomination for a Temporary Position* (Form 1378)), requires details of the qualifications, skills, experience, registration and licenses required to be held by the nominated person.