

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0210) PROGRAM – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Xenophon (L&CA 89) asked:

What were the sequence of events and the bodies that are responsible for determining that pilots and flight attendants can now be granted 457 visas? How did this classification come about from 1 July 2012?

Answer:

The occupation of flight attendant was included in the 457 list of occupations for the first time from 1 July 2012. Pilots were on the 457 list of occupations prior to this.

The 2012 review of the permanent Employer Sponsored visa categories resulted in a number of changes to the skilled migration program, including the decision to adopt a single list of occupations comprising the previous State/Territory nominated visa categories, the Employer Nominated Scheme and Subclass 457 Skilled Occupation Lists. This list is known as the Consolidated Sponsored Occupations List (CSOL). The rationale for the list was developed by the Department in consultation with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency (previously known as Skills Australia).

CSOL currently includes occupations in skill levels 1 to 3 as specified in the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations dictionary. The minimum qualification requirement is an AQF Certificate III qualification. The occupations of cabin crew (flight attendant) and pilot fall under these skill levels.

An occupation in skill levels 1 to 3 may be removed from CSOL if the Minister has deemed they are subject to integrity concerns. This may include occupations where there has been systemic abuse of any of the associated programs such as misclassification of work or regular breaches of visa conditions.