SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10

Outcome **3**

DEEWR Question No. **EW779_10**

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

Formal Skills Assessment

Can you provide the following information about the new formal skills assessment introduced on the 14 September 2009:

a) Provide detail on the individual components of the formal skills assessment consist of and;
b) what format they take and order in which they need to be progressed?
c) How much does each component cost?

Answer

a) The requirement for a formal skills assessment, for applicants in selected (high volume) trade occupations, seeking a temporary employer sponsored, subclass 457 working visa was introduced by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) on 1 July 2009.

   The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) through Trades Recognition Australia (TRA) has established arrangements, using Australian Registered Training Organisations to undertake assessment to Australian Standards.

b) The assessment process comprises three components which must be progressed in the following order;

   1. an online self assessment process
   2. an assessment of documentary evidence
   3. a technical interview.

c) The online self assessment is provided at no cost to the applicant. Both the assessment and the technical interview components are charged separately and vary depending on the trade in question and the training provider undertaking the assessment. The cost for the currently nominated trades for an assessment of documentary evidence is between $600 and $900 and between $600 and $1250 for technical interview.