

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0211) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Xenophon asked:

Labour agreements: Given that the entry standard for cabin crew training is unskilled, on what basis would DIAC enter into a labour agreement to provide 457 visas to foreign crew?

Answer:

The occupation of flight attendant was included in the standard 457 list of occupations for the first time with the implementation of Consolidated Sponsored Occupations List from 1 July 2012. The occupation of cabin crew (flight attendant) is not regarded as unskilled in Australia: it is a Skill Level 3 occupation, usually requiring an AQF Certificate III qualification as a minimum. As such, employers may now sponsor 457 visa holders as flight attendants under a standard business sponsorship without the need for a labour agreement.