



18th June 2013

Ms Julie Dennett
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
mailto: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Dennett

I refer to my attendance at the hearing on the Framework and Operation of Subclass 457 visas, Enterprise Migration Agreements and Regional Migration Agreements on 23rd May 2013 together with my colleague, Mr Wayne Parcell. During the hearing, the Chair of the Committee asked whether there was “any anecdotal evidence where a visa holder who is being assisted by one of your members has approached the member for advice about some form of unfairness discrimination or exploitation?”

I can confirm that we requested this information from our members.

The MIA represents over half of registered migration agents in Australia and we received 6 reports of possible abuses of the 457 visa system. However, of these six reports only one provided evidence that the matter had been referred to the Fairwork Ombudsman. We encourage our members, wherever possible, to report any breaches to the appropriate authority, eg. DIAC, the Fairwork Ombudsman and the police, etc.

We believe we could have reasonably expected a higher rate of reporting of abuses from our members, if there were a widespread abuse of the system.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely

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