

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2015

Communications Portfolio

Special Broadcasting Service

Question No: 137(c)

Program. Special Broadcasting Service

Hansard Ref: Written, 17/06/2015

Topic: Non-Australian Citizens Employed by the Department/Agency

Senator Ludwig, Joe asked:

1. What is the Department/Agency's policy with regard to hiring non-Australian citizens?
2. Does the agency have a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) policy? If yes, please provide a summary.
3. How does the Department/Agency determine whether a person is a non-Australian citizen?
4. How many staff who were not Australian Citizens have been hired by the Department/Agency since the Federal Election in September, 2013? Please break the numbers down by:
 - a. Levels at which they are employed
 - b. Immigration Status (Visa)
 - c. Cultural Background
 - d. Linguistic Background
 - e. How many were hired to satisfy CALD targets?

Answer:

1. SBS will only employ people who are eligible to work in Australia. SBS does not have a policy which ranks categories of people who are eligible to work in Australia. SBS will use 457 visas if the circumstances warrant it. An example of this may be when hiring a Presenter, Specialist Journalist or Senior Executive who has specialist broadcasting skills SBS requires that cannot be found in Australia.

2. No

3. When SBS advertises a position it is clear to applicants they must be an Australian citizen or have the right to work in Australia to be eligible to apply. When SBS recruits a new employee copies of citizenship or visas are taken as part of standard process. This information is kept on all employee files.

4. Since September 2013, SBS has hired one staff member who was not an Australian citizen.

- a. Levels at which they are employed: Band3
- b. Immigration Status (Visa): 457
- c. Cultural Background: Finland
- d. Linguistic Background: Finnish
- e. SBS does not have CALD recruitment targets.