

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 May 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(BE17/135) - ChAFTA - Programme 2.3: Visas**

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA 93) asked:

Senator PRATT: Were any changes made to skills assessments under ChAFTA that you have had anything to do with, or, again, is that done by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade?  
Mr Wilden: Is this particular to the Chinese free trade agreement?

Senator PRATT: Yes.

Mr Wilden: There were several changes made. I would have to take on notice the detail. In essence, previously, there was a requirement for mandatory skills testing for about 10 occupations. That has now moved from mandatory to, basically, as required. So that was the concession that was given.

*Answer:*

As part of the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) package of outcomes, a side letter was developed that removes the requirement for Chinese subclass 457 applicants in 10 occupations listed below to provide a mandatory skills assessment. A skills assessment can still be required for Chinese applicants in any occupation, if the Department assesses that it is required.

The side letter does not remove the requirement that temporary visa holders must hold relevant Australian licenses and certification as required by Australian federal, state and territory laws and regulations.

<b>Occupations removed from mandatory skills testing under ChAFTA</b>
Automotive Electrician [ANZSCO 321111]
Cabinetmaker [ANZSCO 394111]
Carpenter [ANZSCO 331212]
Carpenter and Joiner [ANZSCO 331211]
Diesel Motor Mechanic [ANZSCO 321212]
Electrician (General) [ANZSCO 341111]
Electrician (Special Class) [ANZSCO 341112]
Joiner [ANZSCO 331213]
Motor Mechanic (General) [ANZSCO 321211]
Motorcycle Mechanic [ANZSCO 321213]

ANZSCO: Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations

