

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/437) PROGRAMME – 1.2: Visa and Citizenship

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Direct labour agreement – Fronditha Aged Care

- (a) Please provide more details on this arrangement between the Government and the Fronditha Aged Care facility
 - (i) What does this arrangement entail?
 - (ii) Has this arrangement commenced?
 - (iii) If so, how is the program progressing so far?
 - (iv) What are the obligations placed on employers in regard to an arrangement such as this?
- (b) Is it only the health and community sectors that will potentially be able to benefit from this type of arrangement?
- (c) If not, what other sectors would be potentially eligible for an agreement such as this?

Answer:

(a) (i) This labour agreement permits Fronditha Care to recruit overseas bilingual personal care workers over the three years of their agreement.

(a) (ii) Yes.

(a) (iii) The labour agreement is in effect.

(a) (iv) Employers under the labour agreement programme are subject to the same sponsorship obligations which apply to the Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457).

(b) No.

(c) Any employer who wishes to directly employ overseas workers where Australian workers are not available to fill skilled or specialised semi-skilled positions is able to request access to a labour agreement. While concessions to standard subclass 457 requirements may be considered, employers wishing to access a labour agreement must meet minimum requirements, including those relating to salary and English language proficiency.