

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 17 October 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE16/092) - Skill shortages in the Meat Industry - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

Has the DIBP undertaken any analysis of the skills shortages in the meat processing industry? When was that analysis undertaken and by whom? What does that analysis say about the number of skilled boners, slicers and slaughtermen employed in the Australian meat industry?

Answer:

Yes. In 2014, the Department undertook a review of the Meat Industry Labour Agreement (MILA). In the course of this review, significant consultation was undertaken, including with employers in the industry and the Australasian Meat Industry Employees' Union (AMIEU).

The review found a consistent view amongst stakeholders that the MILA programme was crucial to ensuring that meat processing employers are able to operate at full capacity, especially in regional and remote areas.

Australian employers requesting access to a labour agreement, including under a MILA, must provide evidence of domestic recruitment activity that demonstrates that they cannot fill jobs with local workers.

The labour agreement was supported by the AMIEU.