

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Estimates

3 June 2013

**Question:** BR6

**Topic:** 457 Visas - Classification of Trades and Professions

**Proof Hansard Page:** 119

**Senator Cameron asked:**

**Senator CAMERON:** Ms Constable, I have just looked at the Department of Immigration and Citizenship website. I can find nowhere where a section 456 visa [*sic – the earlier discussion had been about subclass 457 visas*] is classified as semiskilled. It is all skilled. Could you take on notice and provide me with details of why a skilled tradesman would be classified by your department as semiskilled?

**Ms Constable:** It is possibly a terminology issue. I will certainly take that on notice and give you the correct classifications and all of the types of trades and professions that are listed. As I said, it was-

**Senator CAMERON:** At least you admit you have made a mistake instead of doing a "yes, Senator".

**Ms Constable:** I will certainly provide that information.

**Answer:**

***Skilled and semi-skilled occupations***

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) uses the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2005* (ANZSCO) to determine skill levels of occupations as part of determining eligibility for skilled migration programs.

The ANZSCO classification system provides for the standardised collection, analysis, and dissemination of occupation data. ANZSCO was developed jointly by the following organisations for use in the collection, publication and analysis of occupation statistics:

- the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS);
- Statistics New Zealand; and
- the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

Definitions for the five ANZSCO Skill Levels are available on the ABS website:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Previousproducts/C4BECE1704987586CA257089001A9181?opendocument>. The full ANZSCO classification, which provides a listing of skill levels for an extensive range of occupations is available here:

[http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/5FE5DF1371EEE726CA25708900805997/\\$File/12210\\_2005.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/5FE5DF1371EEE726CA25708900805997/$File/12210_2005.pdf)

The standard subclass 457 visa program allows for sponsorship of “skilled” occupations. “Skilled” occupations in this context translates to occupations that are classified at ANZSCO Skill level 1 (highest level) to ANZSCO Skill Level 3.

Specialised migration agreements within the subclass 457 visa program, such as Labour Agreements, can allow concessions to requirements of the standard 457 visa program, by negotiation.

Skill concessions can be negotiated that would allow “semi-skilled” workers to be sponsored under subclass 457 visas. “Semi-skilled” occupations translate to occupations that are classified at ANZSCO Skill level 4.

As an example, ‘711513 – Plastics Fabricator or Welder’ is listed at ANZSCO Skill Level 4 (i.e. “semi-skilled”) while ‘Welders’ are generally considered ANZSCO Skill Level 3 (i.e. “skilled”).

Tradespersons are predominately considered to be ANZSCO Skill Levels 2 and 3, and are therefore considered “skilled” workers in the context of skilled migration programs.