

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

#### **Outcome 4 – Employment & Participation Policy**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0314\_12**

**Senator Abetz asked on 31/05/2011, Hansard page 6.**

#### **Question**

#### **Consultation with DIAC– Enterprise Migration Agreements**

Senator ABETZ: If you can give us the detail on notice as to when the initial contact was made and there is an interdepartmental group, is there, that discusses these matters to try to finalise them? Ms Kidd: We have a range of interdepartmental groups where we work with DIAC on labour market issues associated with migration. Senator ABETZ: Discretely on enterprise migration agreements? Ms Kidd: There is not a specific one, no. Senator ABETZ: Is there a specific group that— Ms Kidd: No, not that we are involved in. Senator Chris Evans: It is a cabinet process — Ms Paul: It was more a consultation, by the sound of it. Senator ABETZ: If you can let us know if there was consultation. Ms Paul: We will let you know, yes.

#### **Answer**

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) provided secretariat support to, and convenes a Government Working Group responsible for implementing the recommendations of the Report of the National Resources Sector Employment Taskforce (NRSET).

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship has primary responsibility for the NRSET Report recommendation to introduce Enterprise Migration Agreements (EMAs) for “mega” resource projects.

In October 2010, DIAC wrote to DEEWR to invite participation in roundtable discussions with stakeholders to be conducted in November 2010. DEEWR attended roundtable meetings in late November and early December 2010 where the definition of “mega” resource projects was discussed.