

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 21-24 May 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.2 National Security and International Policy

Topic: Border Protection Task Force - migration law and the categorisation of flights

Senator: Senator Xenophon

Question reference number: 136

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 July 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Currently, the Fair Work Ombudsman has proceedings on foot against Jetstar Airways Pty Ltd in relation to the employment of cadet pilots and foreign cabin crew on particular flight within Australia. While the headline activity involves DEEWR agencies, the underlying issues relate to migration law and the categorisation of flights. It appears that DIT, CASA, DEEWR, ACBPS, AQIS and DIAC have differing views on the distinction between international and domestic flights.

Is the Task Force the coordinating group for a 'whole of Government' approach or is it another body or is there no such coordination?

Answer:

The Border Protection Taskforce is not coordinating a whole-of-government approach to this issue.

Coordination between relevant departments and agencies is undertaken in relation to airline issues as they emerge.

As proceedings brought by the Fair Work Ombudsman against Jetstar Airways Pty Ltd are currently before the courts, it is not appropriate to comment further on this matter.