

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 12 February 2007

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(58) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Ludwig asked:

Can the Department confirm that there are provisions for bulk nominations by sponsors for the Subclass 457 visa? If so:

- (a) At what stage are these applications approved?
- (b) Can a business (including labour hire companies) nominate the number of positions they want to fill under the sponsorship without there being specific positions or even skilled classifications for those nominations?

Answer:

The Subclass 457 programme is a three-stage process.

First, the business applies to be a sponsor. The business must demonstrate, among other things, that they will be the direct employer of the overseas workers. Where the employer is approved as a sponsor, the maximum number of nominated business activities (“job positions”) is set for that sponsorship. The maximum number of job positions is determined based on the businesses future labour requirements and an assessment of the employer’s capacity to meet sponsorship obligations in relation to the proposed number of job positions.

Approved sponsors may then apply for the approval of each specific job position they seek to fill. Each job position is assessed against the regulatory criteria on an individual basis. Among the criteria that must be satisfied are requirements that the job position meets minimum skill and minimum salary thresholds.

Finally, the overseas worker applies for a Subclass 457 visa, along with any family members who seek to accompany them. The overseas worker must demonstrate, among other criteria, that they have the appropriate employment background and skills to undertake the specific job position.