

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(120) Output 1.1: Non-Humanitarian Entry and Stay

Senator Carr asked:

How many officers are on the Outreach programme? To what employer associations have they been assigned? Has DIMA also approached trade unions with a view to providing information about the rules and criteria attached to visa subclasses 456 and 457?

Answer:

The Department has 15 Industry Outreach Officers working with 20 peak industry and association bodies on full time and part time placements.

Industry hosts are:

- Australian Industry Group
- Association of Consulting Engineers
- Australasian Railway Association
- Australian Business Limited
- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Australian Mines and Metals Association
- Business SA
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA
- Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia
- Commerce Queensland
- Growcom
- Housing Industry Association
- Manufacturing & Engineering Skills Advisory Board
- Master Builders Association
- Motor Trades Association of Australia
- National Farmers Federation
- Restaurant & Catering Australia
- Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Tasmanian Employers' Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- WA Resources Sector Consortium (CME & APPEA)

Advertisements were placed in the *AGE*, the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the *Canberra Times* and the *Australian* on 21 May 2005 calling for expressions of interest from peak industry organisations to host outposted DIMA staff. Applications were considered from organisations representing a broad range of industry sectors, with priority given to those sectors experiencing trade skills shortages in areas listed on the Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL). No applications were received from trade unions.

DIMA has sought to include trade unions in its consultative process on skilled migration. All DIMA State and Territory Offices engage with the unions in their state through regular meetings. DIMA has responded positively to requests from unions to discuss a range of visa matters.