

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(123) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Carr asked:

1. Please explain the calculations, benchmarks and assumptions used to arrive at the minimum wage set for 457 visa holders, currently at \$41 850 p.a.
2. Please explain how this wage level is indexed or increased, and whether this is done annually or on some other basis.

Answer:

1. The Minimum Salary Levels (MSLs) are developed in consultation with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) and are reference to Australian Bureau of Statistics data on average weekly ordinary time earnings for a full-time employee and, as appropriate, other independent and authoritative salary surveys. The detailed methodology is a matter for DEWR.
2. MSLs are currently reviewed on an annual basis. MSLs are changed by Gazette Notice and apply to new nominations and undecided visa applications.