

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

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

Senator Kirk (L&C 95) asked:

“In relation to the consideration of whether there is a genuine skills shortage in a trade occupation, how are the four criteria addressed?”

Answer:

In considering whether or not there is a genuine skills shortage in a trade occupation Regional Certifying Bodies (RCBs) are encouraged to consider the extent to which the following four criteria have been addressed.

- Whether the trade is on the gazetted Migration Occupation in Demand List (MODL).
- Whether the trade is on the State/Territory Skills Shortage List in the particular State/Territory where the apprenticeship position is located.
- Whether the apprenticeship vacancy has been lodged on the Australian Job Search (AJS) website for a minimum of 28 days without referral of a suitable Australian jobseeker.
- Whether this is a local shortage in a specified region where the apprenticeship vacancy is located, and is certified (by the certifying body).

In relation to the last criterion, the RCB should consider other locally produced lists; other research conducted by a reputable source, which demonstrates that there is a specific trade shortage in the region, and whether other employers in the region have experienced the same difficulties in finding people for the specified trade.

Advice from State/Territory training authorities is also taken into consideration by DIMA.