

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 22 May 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(82) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Webber asked:

Is the department aware of cases where the accommodation costs are being deducted directly from the person's wages?

Answer:

The Department is aware of cases where applicants are renting accommodation from their sponsor and have authorised deductions from their net salaries for this purpose.

The Department queries deductions on the payslip with the employer when undertaking monitoring. It is a requirement that deductions must be authorised by the visa holder. These deductions may include payment for accommodation. Accommodation is offered by employers to assist overseas employees to settle into the community quickly. The overseas workers are not obliged to take up the offer of accommodation and are free to find their own accommodation if they so wish.