

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 May 2007

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(81) Output 1.4: Compliance

Senator Ludwig (L&CA 107) asked:

Are government departments, including yours, registered online? In other words, do you and other government departments, as employers, register online to check?

Answer:

As at 31 May 2007, 6,247 organisations were registered for Entitlement Verification Online (EVO). Of these, over 150 are either Federal or State/Territory government departments, councils or legal authorities.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship is not registered for Entitlement Verification Online (EVO). However, the rules relating to engagement of APS employees are set out in the Public Service Act and apply to all government agencies. The Public Service Act specifies that an agency head not engage, as an APS employee, a person who is not an Australian citizen, unless the agency head considers it appropriate to do so. Appropriate work rights are an essential requirement for the employment of non-citizens.

As part of its standard recruitment processes DIAC conducts initial pre-employment checks to confirm the identity, citizenship and work rights of prospective employees and contractors. All prospective employees are required to provide certified copies of specified documents such as birth certificates, citizenship certificates or passports before commencement. In the case of non-citizens, DIAC checks travel documents to ensure that the person has the visa and work rights appropriate to the employment being offered.