

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006**

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

### **(141) Output 1.1 Migration and Temporary Entry**

Senator Carr (L&CA written) asked:

In answer to QON 42 from the last round, the Department refers to “caseload profiling” as a means by which visa applications are monitored for fraud. Can you provide some detail about this “profiling” – the criteria used, the features of an application that give potential cause for concern, and related matters?

*Answer:*

The department undertakes caseload profiling to minimise the risk of persons entering Australia on the basis of fraudulent documents or claims and to maintain visa integrity. The department draws on a variety of information sources including:

- reports from compliance officers, integrity units and Airport Liaison Officers;
- DIMA operational staff at overseas posts and onshore processing centres;
- National Office policy and operational areas; and
- external stakeholders.

This information is analysed to identify characteristics/trends of concern and potential threats to visa/border integrity. The information is then used to update profiles. Examples of characteristics that might be used in such profiling include visa class, applicant’s age, sex, country of citizenship/birth, occupation, industry section, address and salary.

DIMA systems can match these characteristics to information provided by applicants for visas or sponsorship and generate alert messages to officers who are processing applications.

Before approving profiles, the Department tests its likely impact (match rate) upon existing processes and consults internally.

Aside from caseload profiling, case officers may initiate a referral to post based on particular concerns about conflicting information or documents provided by the applicant.