

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

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

#### **IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**

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

Senator Carr (L&CA 35) asked:

Provide a breakdown of proven cases where employers have made unauthorised or unlawful deductions from wages and the amounts of money involved.

*Answer:*

Of the 12 sponsors who have been sanctioned in Financial Year 2005/06 and Financial Year 2006/07 to 31 October 2007 two involved unauthorised deductions. One of these was an agreement between the sponsor and an overseas recruitment agency to deduct the second half of the recruitment fee of 50,000 pesos (roughly \$1,300). For the other, the Office of Workplace Services advised that deductions totalling \$347.68 were made to recover 'certain expenses'.

Another sponsor also deducted a fee of \$60 to cover rent, gas and electricity expenses however this deduction was authorised by the visa holders concerned.

Ongoing investigations by other government agencies into the 12 sanctioned sponsors may reveal additional unauthorised deductions. All allegations of unauthorised or unlawful deductions are referred to the relevant State or Territory government agencies.