

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 30 October 2006

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

(86) Output 1.1 Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Crossin (L&CA written) asked:

1. What sanctions are open to the Department for employers?
2. What sanctions have been imposed where there was a breach of visa and/or sponsorship conditions in the last 15 months?
3. What were the sanctions?
4. How much money was collected? What are the current projections for future income in this area? [*PBS DIMA p41 estimate 2006-2007 for Employer Sanctions \$1,152,000*]

Answer:

1. The sanctions open to the department against employers are:
 - Cancel a business sponsorship agreement; and/or
 - Bar a sponsor for up to five years from sponsoring overseas workers.
2. and 3. In the fifteen months to 30 September 2006 a total of six sanctions against sponsors were made. The sanctions applied to these sponsors were:
 - Sponsorship Agreement cancelled; and/or
 - Sponsor barred from nominating or sponsoring any further visa holders.In October 2006, a further five sanctions were made against sponsors. These consisted of Sponsorship Agreement cancellations and bars placed on the sponsor.
4. The figure referred to in *PBS DIMA p41 estimate 2006-2007 for Employer Sanctions* is sanction action that may be taken against employers employing visa holders in contravention of their visa entitlements and is not specific to the sub-class 457 visa. This estimate relates to the anticipated impact of the Employer Sanctions Bill.