

**QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010**

**IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

**(146) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration**

Senator Cash asked:

Is the Department reviewing the restriction on the lodgement of 457 visa application to a Centre of Excellence?

*Answer:*

There are no restrictions on the place of lodgement for applications for the subclass 457 visa program; however, the Department is currently reviewing online lodgement options for applicants with overseas standard business sponsors. Online lodgement for applicants with overseas standard business sponsors will further assist with streamlining lodgement processes for the subclass 457 visa program.