

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(203) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration**

Senator Cash asked:

- (1) How many were not finalised due to the employer failing to provide information requested by DIAC?
- (2) What was the information requested by DIAC in those cases?

*Answer:*

- (1) As at 30 June 2010, 45 requests to access a Labour Agreement were in the negotiation process.
- (2) Labour Agreements provide an option for employers to negotiate concessions to standard visa arrangements where these are not appropriate for their needs. As such, a request for a Labour Agreement is not an application and there is no set list of requirements which an employer must meet. Each individual case is decided on the basis of negotiations between the employer or industry and the Department.

The type of information required by the Department is identified in an Information Pack to assist the employer with their submission, and can include:

- Company structure
- Evidence of Labour market demand cannot be met from the Australian labour market and ongoing domestic recruitment efforts
- The number of overseas skilled workers required and the occupations for which they are required
- Evidence of consultations with stakeholders
- Information on the company's record of contributing to the training of Australian workers and ongoing commitment to training Australian workers
- Evidence of company's ability to meet its sponsorship obligations.