

SKILLED MIGRATION

**34. Hon HELEN BULLOCK to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development:**

I refer to the current Skilled Migration Western Australia requirement that businesses must advertise a job vacancy for a minimum of three months for certification by a regional certifying body under the regional sponsored migration scheme.

- (1) Given the tight labour market in Western Australia, does the minister deem the minimum advertising period acceptable?
- (2) Has there been a review by SMWA of the minimum period businesses must advertise a job vacancy; and, if so, when was it completed?
- (3) If yes to (2), what were the main recommendations of the review and when will those recommendations be implemented?
- (4) If no to (2), does SMWA plan to review the minimum period businesses must advertise a job vacancy; and, if so, when?

**Hon PETER COLLIER replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(4) When Perth was designated as a region under the regional sponsored migration scheme—RSMS—in mid-2011, the Department of Training and Workforce Development was appointed by the Australian government's Department of Immigration and Citizenship, or DIAC, as the regional certifying body, and put into place criteria to certify applications under the scheme, which includes the requirement to test the labour market through actively advertising a job vacancy for a minimum of three months.

In late 2011, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia—CCIWA—asked the department to review the labour market testing criteria. The department has consulted with a range of stakeholders, including peak industry bodies such as CCIWA, the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of WA and the Australian Hotels Association, which have provided their feedback. In addition, the department has discussed with DIAC its requirements in respect to certifying applications under the RSMS. My department has advised me that it has now taken into account this feedback from stakeholders and DIAC and that the review of the market testing criteria will be submitted to me next week for my consideration.