



Inquiry into supporting Australia's exports and attracting investment

Department of Home Affairs responses to Questions on Notice.

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AUSTRALIAN BORDER FORCE**

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE:

Trade and Investment Growth

13 September 2019

QoN Number: JSCTIG/001

Subject: Feedback from Australian Exporters

Asked

Question Submitted by: David Van

Question:

Mr Hall: We've had broad engagement across industry over the last couple of years. Late last year we engaged with a number of exporting firms to understand how their processes function and, in particular, their interactions with our processes. I believe—

Senator VAN: Did you take written submissions?

Mr Hall: For that, no. For the board of permanence review, we did take written submissions.

Senator VAN: You said you wanted to determine 'pain points' in the export process by Australian exporters. I'm keen to understand what they are. Can you provide us on notice the feedback you got from that process and what those pain points are?

Mr Hall: Yes.

Answer:

Australian exporters identified the following issues with the existing export process:

- complexity of processes;
- multiple regulatory agencies with fragmented systems;
- a lack of consolidated digital information on trade requirements;
- complex legislative requirements, with approximately 200 pieces of legislation across multiple government agencies; and
- manual and inconsistent data requirements across government.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE:

Trade and Investment Growth

13 September 2019

QoN Number: JSCTIG/002

Subject: Rate of noncompliance with foreign-flagged vessels

Asked

Question Submitted by: David Van

Question:

CHAIR: these ships are facilitating exports for Australian companies and also imports. I've been on a ship in Mackay where the ABF went on there and checked all the logbooks, checked all the passports and all the rest of that. To help out here, what rate of noncompliance do you get with these foreign-flagged vessels?

Mr Hall: I would need to come back to the committee with a response on that.

Answer:

The requirements of compliance by vessels across immigration, customs and maritime safety are administered by the Australian Border Force. Compliance checks are undertaken based on risk. The instances of non-compliance are recorded based on risk rather than by the vessel's status as the primary indicator.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE:

Trade and Investment Growth

13 September 2019

QoN Number: JSCTIG/003

Subject: Visas for international students

Asked

Question Submitted by: David Van

Question:

CHAIR: I have one more question, which may assist in an area that Dr Allen is interested in: visas for international students. This is an export market that we are very interested in. Could you give some feedback—and I'm happy for you to take it on notice—on the current system regarding visas for international students? Is there any view that the department has around whether this system could be streamlined and why or why not?

Mr Hall: I will need to take that on notice and I will provide a response.

Answer:

The Simplified Student Visa Framework (SSVF), which was introduced in July 2016 simplified the regulatory requirements for Australian Student visas. Key changes included:

- a reduction in the number of student visa subclasses from eight to two,
- the global roll out of online visa lodgement for all international students; and
- a single immigration evidentiary framework to replace the dual framework that existed before.

Under the SSVF, student visa applications either have streamlined or regular evidentiary requirements. Applicants with regular evidentiary requirements must provide documentary evidence of their financial capacity and English language ability, while streamlined applicants can meet these requirements through a declaration.

In 2018, the Department of Home Affairs conducted an appraisal of the SSVF policy settings to ensure the SSVF is functioning effectively. Submissions from stakeholders confirmed that the SSVF is generally operating as intended and called for a period of stability in policy settings.

- Recommendations focused on fine-tuning the operation of the SSVF evidentiary framework and were endorsed by the Minister.