



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

28 February 2025

Ms Sophie Dunstone
Committee Secretary
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Dunstone

Inquiry into the AusCheck Amendment (Global Entry Program) Bill 2025 [Provisions]

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee on the *AusCheck Amendment (Global Entry Program) Bill 2025*. DFAT supports the passage of the Bill.

On 6 August 2024, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Penny Wong and Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Tony Burke MP, jointly announced that Australia would join the United States' Global Entry Program (GEP). Participation in the GEP will enable Australian citizens entering the United States to access expedited customs clearance processes.

Australia is taking a phased approach to participation, with access initially available to a limited number of Australians who have travelled five times or more in the past year to the United States. Phase one of Australia's participation commenced on 17 January 2025, allowing GEP participation for up to 1000 pre-approved Australian travellers to the United States. Phase one participation is expected to be fully subscribed.

As Minister Wong has stated, joining the GEP is a mark of the closeness and strength of the relationship between Australia and the United States. The passage of this Bill would enable phase two of Australia's participation. It will make it easier to foster greater commercial ties with Australia's most significant partner and deepen people-to-people links.

Yours sincerely



Dr Peter Sawczak AM
First Assistant Secretary, Geostrategy and Partnerships Division
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