

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE15/165) - SHEVs Progress - Programme 2.1 Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance (Administered)

Senator Hanson-Young, Sarah (L&CA) written:

What is the current status of the SHEVs? When will the detailed framework and substance of the scheme be available?

Last year the Department stated that the SHEVs would come into effect in April 2015, is this timeline still in place? Do you anticipate that people will be able to apply for a SHEV this coming April?

What will the application process be for the SHEV? How will people apply for the visa? What type of support will they receive throughout the application process?

Who of the key stakeholders has been consulted about the changes?

At the Estimates hearing on Monday 23 February Mr Fleming stated that the Department was working with the states and territories. Have you received feedback from each of the states and territories? What is the nature of this feedback?

Answer:

Regulations for the Safe Haven Enterprise visa (SHEV) were included as part of the *Resolving the Asylum Legacy Caseload Act 2014* (see Schedule 2 of the Act). Minor amendments to these regulations, including instruments that will define 'work', 'study' and 'income support' will be made prior to proclamation.

Proclamation of the SHEV regulations is scheduled for April 2015.

It is intended that the application process for a SHEV will largely be the same as for a TPV. In addition an illegal arrival will be required to sign an intention to work or study in regional Australia.

To assist applicants in lodging their protection visa application, Protection Application Information and Guides (PAIG) have been developed by the department. PAIG materials are publically available documents that provide clear instructions on the various stages of the application and assessment process. These will be translated into key languages. There will also be assistance provided to vulnerable eligible IMAs and UAAs via the Primary Application Information Service (PAIS). This will include all unaccompanied minors.

Consultation has been undertaken with all State and Territory governments regarding the SHEV. In addition, briefing of key stakeholders has been undertaken where appropriate, including non-government organisations; the Commonwealth Ombudsman, and several Commonwealth Government Departments such as Department of Social Security, Department of Education and Department of Human Services.

Consultation with the State and Territory governments is ongoing. To date States/Territories have been positively engaged in the SHEV process.