

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/467) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

Since Additional Estimates in February, 2014, how many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:

1. the date they were ordered
2. the date they commenced
3. the minister responsible
4. the department responsible
5. the nature of the review
6. their terms of reference
7. the scope of the review
8. Whom is conducting the review
9. the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
10. the expected report date
11. the budgeted, projected or expected costs
12. If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public

Answer:

Since Additional Estimates in February 2014 the Independent Review of Integrity in the Subclass 457 Programme review has commenced.

1. 25 February 2014.
2. 25 February 2014.
3. Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.
4. Department of Immigration and Border Protection.
5. The review aims to find the right balance between positioning the 457 programme to support employers and industry whilst maintaining programme integrity.
6. Investigate:
 - the level of noncompliance in the 457 programme;
 - the current framework, to better understand whether the existing requirements balance the needs of business with the integrity of the programme;
 - deregulation strategy of the current programme while maintaining the integrity of the programme; and
 - the appropriateness of the current compliance and sanctions.
7. In addition to the matters addressed under the terms of reference, the panel was requested to consider the Ministerial Advisory Council on Skilled Migration and its role in advising on Subclass 457 policy settings, and the potential for deregulation where appropriate. The panel was also asked to consider relevant

recommendations of the Senate Inquiry on the framework and operation of the subclass 457 visas, Enterprise Migration Agreements and Regional Migration Agreements.

8. Four independent specialists were appointed to conduct the review:
 - Mr John Azarias (panel lead);
 - Prof Peter McDonald;
 - Ms Katie Malyon; and
 - Ms Jenny Lambert.
9. The panel was supported by a project team and secretariat of four dedicated EL and APS staff within the Skilled Migration Policy Branch of the Department.
10. 30 June 2014.
11. Approximately \$500 000.
12. The report was publicly released on 10 September 2014.

Since Additional Estimates in February 2014 the Internal Review of the Significant Investor visa has commenced.

1. 7 March 2014.
2. 7 March 2014.
3. Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection.
4. Department of Immigration and Border Protection.
5. An internal review conducted by the Department, in consultation with key stakeholders.
6. The terms of reference for the review were:
 - Assess whether the current policy settings are conducive to the effectiveness of the programme;
 - Identify measures to enhance the benefits of the programme;
 - Examine options for improvement in application processing and service standards;
 - Explore the feasibility of introducing a 'national stream' visa for investment migrants, free of State/Territory nomination requirement; and
 - Consider options for the international promotion of the programme.
7. Please see the terms of reference of the review.
8. The review was conducted internally by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection.
9. 0.25xEL2, 1.2xEL1, 0.2xAPS6 and 1xAPS5 were used for three months to conduct the review.
10. The report has been completed, and was provided to government on 28 May 2014.
11. \$73 494
12. This is a matter for government.