

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 May 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(BE17/076) - 457 Changes - reason for the reduction of the age limit - Programme 2.3: Visas**

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 12) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: There is an age limit of 45. Is that correct?

Mr Wilden: The age limit has been moved from 50 to 45.

Senator KIM CARR: Yes, to 45—is that correct or not?

Mr Wilden: Unless an age exemption is applied.

Senator KIM CARR: Explain to me, then, why not 50—or whatever number. Why 45?

Mr Wilden: The productivity report that came out last year and looked at a broad range of issues around migration and its contribution to the economy et cetera provided a vast amount of information on the relevant economic outcomes for migrants. In particular, it went through the age profile of when they arrived, what their contributions are versus what the costs to the Australian government are. The short answer is: from the age of 45 on, if you arrive, you are likely to cost the taxpayer money as opposed to paying your own way. I can provide some more information on that, if you like.

Senator KIM CARR: If you wouldn't mind. I am interested to know, specifically in regard to the innovation system, for senior academics and researchers why 45? Are we talking about specific circumstances, in regard to what actually goes on in the universities and research agencies for pre-eminent international research leaders? At 45 are you saying they are no longer of value to this country?

*Answer:*

There are no age limit restrictions with regards to obtaining a subclass 457 visa.