

## QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES - 20 OCTOBER 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### (SE14/449) PROGRAMME – 1.2: Visa and Citizenship

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

- (a) How many retirement visa holders remain in Australia?
- (b) In previous Estimates hearings, when asked about the cost of a pathway to permanent residence the Department has cited the Australian Government Actuary's report for their estimate of the costs. However, you have also observed criticisms of the report and mentioned that it is just one source of information. What is the Department's estimate of the cost to the taxpayer of providing a pathway to permanent residence for retirement visa holders?
- (c) Is the Government considering a pathway to permanent residence for retirement visa holders?
- (d) What information will the Government be relying on in assessing the financial impact of such a policy?
- (e) In previous Estimates hearings, you were expecting to brief the current Government on the report, have you?
- (f) What have you advised the Government in terms of recommendations?
- (g) Has the Government responded yet?

*Answers:*

- (a) At 30 November 2014, there were 5,514 Retirement (subclass 410) visa holders. Of these, 3,494 were onshore at that date. Approximately 2,630 visa holders had spent 80 per cent or more of their time in Australia since the grant of their first Retirement visa.
- (b) The Department of Immigration and Border Protection does not have a formal estimate as to the costs of providing a pathway to permanent residence for Retirement (subclass 410) visa holders.
- (c) No.
- (d) Costings would need to be provided by the impacted portfolios.
- (e) We have briefed ministers on issues relating to Retirement visa holders and relevant history, including the report.
- (f) It would not be appropriate to discuss policy advice between the department and government.
- (g) It would not be appropriate to discuss policy advice between the department and government.