

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 FEBRUARY 2008

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(50) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry

Senator Ellison asked:

What is the rationale behind the revision to the Australia-China free trade agreement – continuation of negotiations?

Answer:

The Government made a decision to reverse the additional funding provided in the 2007-08 Budget to various government departments and agencies for the continuation of negotiations for an Australia-China Free Trade Agreement. As this was a policy initiative of the Government, it is not appropriate for the Department to continue to comment on the possible rationale.