

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(133) Program 3.1: Border Management

Senator Trood (L&CA 38) asked:

If current APEC business travel card holders applied again their original card having expired and you decided they did not meet the rules would you deny them a card?

Answer:

Yes. An APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) is valid for three years and there are no automatic renewal arrangements for the card. Since the scheme commenced in 1998 it has been a requirement that any person seeking to re-apply for the ABTC must fully satisfy all eligibility criteria regardless of whether they had previously been found eligible for the card at an earlier point in time.

At the same time that the Department established new eligibility criteria, including that the applicant holds a senior executive position and the business contributes a significant economic benefit to the APEC region, it also established an appeal process that enabled an applicant to seek a Departmental review of a decision to refuse them the ABTC.