

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 FEBRUARY 2011

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(93) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration**

Senator Cash asked:

Please advise the rationale behind the program of reforms arising from the recommendations of the *2007–08 Review of Statutory Self-Regulation of the Migration Advice Profession*. Please provide a status update of the progress on these reforms.

*Answer:*

The *2007–08 Review of Statutory Self Regulation of the Migration Advice Profession* (the Review) was undertaken to assist the government assess the effectiveness of the regulatory scheme, the state of the profession and its readiness for a move from statutory self-regulation to self regulation.

The key findings from the Review included the following:

- consider establishing a regulatory body separate from the MIA;
- better complaint handling processes were needed;
- changes to migration agent's entry requirements needed to improve standards;
- legislation relating to migration agents needs to be substantially revised to remove confusion; and
- simplify and streamline Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements.

Aside from the establishment of the Office of the MARA and the Advisory Board, these key findings of the Review have informed the rationale behind a range of legislative amendment proposals.

*Status update of the progress on these reforms is as follows:*

The Office of the MARA and the Department continue to work closely with the Advisory Board to implement recommendations from the Review.

Of the 57 recommendations proposed by the review, to date:

- 25 have been fully or substantially completed;
- 16 are in process;
- 16 are waiting for appropriate amendments to the *Migration Act 1958*. The Department intends on bidding to progress these amendments; and
- 2 require further research.