

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 13 FEBRUARY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE12/0234) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

Submissions for the department's review of Australia's visa framework – "Creating a simpler framework for temporary and permanent entry to Australia" – closed in July 2010. What is the status of the review? Have there been any recommendations or further work done or commissioned as a result of the review? Has a report been completed? Has that report been made available to the Minister? Will it be made public?

Answer:

The Better Regulation Ministerial Partnership on Working Visa Simplification managed between the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and Department of Finance and Deregulation is being progressed.

Following public response after the release of the initial Simpler Visas public discussion paper in June 2010, a second public discussion paper outlining proposals for Temporary Work visas was released in December 2010, and a third public discussion paper outlining proposals for Visitor visas was released in April 2011. All three public discussion papers are available on the department's website.

Following public response to the second paper a final proposal for Temporary Work visas has been developed and is intended for implementation in November 2012.

Following public response to the third paper a final proposal for Visitor visas is being prepared for the Minister's consideration.