

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0443) PROGRAM – 3.1: Border Management

Senator Xenophon (Written) asked:

Can the Department provide an update on the progress of the review of Special Purpose Visas for international cabin crew on domestic flights operated by Australian airlines? How many submissions did the Department receive? When will the review be completed? When will the findings be released? Is the Department also considering the use of New Zealand-based flight crew on domestic flights, operating under New Zealand wages and conditions?

Answer:

The Department released a discussion paper titled *Visa Arrangements for International Airline Crew* on 30 October 2012. The department received 14 submissions from various government departments, industry groups and some private individuals. The submissions received highlighted divergent views on how best to manage visa and work entitlements for international air crew and reinforced the need for further consultation.

The Department is consulting with each of the stakeholders who provided a submission to the discussion paper, to clarify issues and discuss concerns that they raised. The timing of the conclusion of this consultation will be dependent on the availability of stakeholders for meetings. The findings will be provided to the Minister for consideration. Any release of these findings will be a matter for the Minister.

The review is taking into account all SPV holders, including New Zealand based flight crew.