

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES - 25 FEBRUARY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE14/236) PROGRAMME – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Regarding the significant cost threshold filter that was changed you said in the November estimates you would expect to have a sense of it either late last year or early this year, has this been the case?

If so, what is it and how has it changed? (*Note the threshold changed around 15 months from \$21 000 to \$35 000 and just before Nov estimates in July 2013 to \$40 000).

Will this threshold be a regular incremental change?

Approximately how many people/families are affected by this?

Has there been an increase/decrease in numbers due to the threshold? Discuss.

Have there been any ministerial interventions in such cases?

If so, how many?

Answer:

As advised in November (SE13/0119), the Significant Cost Threshold (SCT) is being reviewed for the 2014-15 programme year and will take into account the most up to date health and welfare cost data that is available from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. The implementation date for the SCT update is 1 July 2014.

Data is not available for health related visa finalisations to date for the 2013-14 programme year. In 2012-13 (when the SCT was \$35 000), 192 people were refused a visa because they did not meet the health requirement. Of these, 11 were refused on public health grounds, 162 due to health care and community services costs and 19 due to conditions that would prejudice the access of health and community services by Australian citizens and permanent residents. Disaggregated data is not available on how many people sought ministerial intervention as a result of not meeting the visa health requirement.