

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27- 28 MAY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(84) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Trood asked:

- (1) Can the Department of Immigration provide information on its intention to offer permanent residency to 410 visa holders?
- (2) Does the Department of Immigration have any plans for changes in policy in relation to this visa?

Answer:

- (1) As any proposal to provide retirees with a pathway to permanent residence may have significant cost implications it must be considered by Australian Government in the context of budget decisions. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship is continuing to investigate possible options with other agencies.
- (2) The Department is currently working to implement the decision announced in the 2009-10 Budget. From 1 July 2009, Retirement visa holders will be able to apply for a visa which is valid for 10 years and is not subject to a condition limiting the amount of work (paid and unpaid) that they are able to undertake.