

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 26-27 MAY 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(136) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Trood asked:

(1) Although the Minister is on record as stressing that he is personally supportive of a pathway to permanent residency and citizenship for 410 visa holders, and actively seeking such a pathway, no actual concrete progress towards permanent residency has yet been achieved. There have been piecemeal enhancements to the visa, which have been welcomed by 410 visa holders, especially last year's increase in the visa renewal period from four to ten years. However, not one of these enhancements has brought permanent residency any further forward.

What steps does the government intend to take to provide a pathway to permanent residency for 410 visa holders?

(2) At the Additional Estimates hearing of this Committee on 9 February the Minister stated that the main argument against you putting forward a case for permanent residency for 410 visa holders was one of cost.

(a) Has the government commissioned any studies or analysis on the costs of giving permanent residency to 410 visa holders?

(b) If so, in relation to each report, please advise when it was commissioned, and the conclusions of each report in relation to the projected costs of extending residency to 410 visa holders.

(c) Do the reports assess possible tax revenue generated for the Commonwealth by taxing 410 visa holders should they become resident in Australia? What is the estimate of this revenue?

Answer:

(1) - There is no update on a pathway to permanent residency at this time.

(2)

(a) - The Department has commissioned a report from the Australian Government Actuary (AGA) on the potential costs and potential additional revenue.

(b) (c) - The AGA report is yet to be finalised.