

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 26 MAY 2010

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(30) Program: 1.1 Visa and Migration**

Senator Humphries (L&C 65) asked:

For general migration to Australia, you mentioned there was a reduction in income from \$136 million to \$101 million expected this coming financial year. What would we attribute that fall in general migration to?

*Answer:*

Whilst there is an expected general increase in revenue (\$3.45 million) over the various visa classes due to higher visa application charges (VAC) (an expected 2.5% increase of fees per annum) and higher application rates, the overall reduction in income can be attributed to the drop in application rates of the following 6 visa subclasses:

- Visa subclass 160 (Business Owner (Provisional) visa)
- Visa subclass 163 (State/Territory Sponsored Business Owner (Provisional) visa)
- Visa subclass 175 (Skilled - Independent (Migrant) visa)
- Visa subclass 176 (Skilled - Sponsored (Migrant) visa)
- Visa subclass 475 (Skilled - Regional Sponsored (Provisional) visa), and
- Visa subclass 476 (Skilled - Recognised Graduate (Temporary) visa)

Between these 6 subclasses, it is expected that there will be a reduction in revenue of \$38.624 million. This, with the increase in revenue expected from the other visa subclasses (\$3.45 million), results in a net position of a reduction in revenue of approximately \$35.174 million.