

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 24/05/2011

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE11/0112) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Mitchell Fifield (written) asked:

When will the Government release its response to the Joint Standing Committee on Migration report *Enabling Australia: Inquiry into the Migration Treatment of Disability?*

Answer:

The Joint Standing Committee on Migration report *Enabling Australia: Inquiry into the Migration Treatment of Disability* (the report) was tabled on 21 June 2010 and recommended:

- a more flexible and individualised approach to applying the health requirement to persons with a disability
- a widening of the range of positive factors, including social and economic contributions, that should be considered when determining whether visa applicants with a disability meet the health requirement and
- increased transparency of the department's processes and procedures used when assessing an applicant with a disability against the health requirement.

The Department has developed a number of options in response to the recommendations for consideration by the Minister, which will soon be discussed with the Minister.

The Government is expected to respond to the Committee during 2011.