

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0203) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

457 visas: Has the Department received any indication that 457 visa holders currently in Australia will suffer significant financial distress as a result of those changes?

Answer:

This question refers to changes to the Living Away From Home Allowance.

The Department has received two representations, one from a current 457 visa holder and one from a 457 visa sponsor, concerning possible financial distress due to the upcoming changes to the Living Away From Home Allowance.

As there were 90,280 subclass 457 primary visa holders in Australia as at 31 May 2012, this does not represent a significant level of concern with the proposed changes.