

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0327) Program 2.1: Border Management

Senator Xenophon asked:

DIAC agreed in evidence that the particular issue under discussion is solely related to Australian airlines. As I understand it, the Chicago Convention provisions related to 'the free movement into and out of countries of international air crew' are relevant in this case to the crews of foreign rather than Australian international airlines. How would a regulatory change that was specific only to Australian designated international airlines upset our 'international commitments and reciprocity provisions'?

Answer:

The Special Purpose visa aligns with our obligations under the Chicago Convention to enable free movement of foreign aircrew working on international flights, regardless of whether the airline is Australian or foreign-owned. As part of a consultation process, proposals for regulatory change will assess possible impacts on Australia's international commitments and reciprocity provisions.