

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0022) PROGRAM – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash (L&CA 50) asked:

Senator CASH: Has the department received any feedback from 457 visa holders on the impact of the changes to their living away from home allowance announced last year?

Mr Kukoc: I may need to take this question on notice, but I have not heard of any significant concerns raised with the department. I have not seen any myself- there may be some, but it is not an issue—

Senator CASH: You said 'no significant concerns'. Have there been any concerns?

Mr Kukoc: I have not heard of any.

Mr Bowles: I have heard nothing either.

Mr Kukoc: Also, this was another decision taken in the budget context and the decision was made within the Treasury portfolio, not within this portfolio.

Answer:

As of 30 April 2013, the Department has received four representations from Subclass 457 visa holders expressing concern with the changes to the tax treatment of the living away from home allowance.