

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(191) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash asked:

In relation to 410 visas, did the report from BERIA (British Expat Retirees in Australia), estimate both potential costs and potential revenue? If so, what were the costs and additional tax revenue in that report?

Answer:

The BERIA report titled 'The Case for Permanent Residency for Holders of 410 Retirement Visas' sets out their views with regard to both potential costs and potential revenues.

The BERIA report indicates that at the time it was produced, in January 2010, the organisations membership was approximately 1600 people from 19 countries. Their estimates with regard to additional taxation revenue were based on an income survey of their membership which was completed by 602 members who they believe to be a representative sample.

Noting that as at 31 August 2010 there were 7055 Retirement visa holders from approximately 65 countries, to date the Department has not been able to obtain data that would enable it to verify whether the estimates provided by BERIA are in fact representative of the entire Retirement visa holder cohort.

The Department is of the view that it would not be appropriate for us to table details regarding the BERIA estimates as we understand that they have not made their report publicly available to date. In addition, we believe they may currently be in the process of updating their report.