

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 November 2013

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE13/0116) PROGRAMME – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Boyce (Written) asked:

In response to the Enabling Australia report and reforms to the treatment of people with disability in our immigration system, can the Department provide the Committee with an update on progress made on the feasibility study into a net benefit approach undertaken over the past 12 months?

Answer:

The 'Net Benefit Approach' (NBA) is one of the measures being examined by the Department for handling the migration aspirations of people with significant medical conditions or disabilities.

Such an approach would involve weighing the likely contribution of an applicant with a significant disability (and their family) to Australia's society and economy against their health costs.

The Department has undertaken preliminary consultations with key stakeholders who were involved in the Joint Standing Committee on Migration (JSCM) inquiry on the feasibility of such an approach and has carried out an initial phase of work examining its feasibility.

The Department is currently examining the potential budgetary impact of the NBA and other options to address remaining JSCM recommendations.