

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(BE12/0221) Program 1.1: Visa and Migration**

Senator Boyce asked:

What is the Department's response to the recommendations of a joint committee on migration that the acceptable cost threshold of a migrant be raised, and for disability to not be considered with disease and medical conditions? What policy work has the Department done to work a solution to these issues and respond to the at Joint Migration committee's recommendations?

*Answer:*

Effective from 1 July 2012, the Australian Government is increasing the significant cost threshold from \$21 000 to \$35 000 and streamlining the health waiver for offshore humanitarian applicants. These reforms were announced in the 2012/2013 Budget.

The Department continues to advise the Government on its response to the Committee's recommendations. The Government will respond in due course.