

Question on notice no. 42

Portfolio question number: AE22-042

2021-22 Additional estimates

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Home Affairs Portfolio

Senator Louise Pratt: asked the Department of Home Affairs on 14 February 2022

Senator PRATT: There is a labour shortage in Western Australia, and that includes, for example, agricultural workers in Perth and construction workers in Perth. There's certainly no need to punish people based on an arbitrary migration zone as far as the purposes of Western Australia's labour market goes. It seems like an arbitrary attempt to set prescriptive pathways just because of the nature of arrival.

Mr Pezzullo: I don't think it's fair to couch it in those terms for this reason. When the law was changed in December 2014-that's something I can speak with direct knowledge of, because I was the secretary of the department-the arrangement the government came to, from memory, with the crossbenchers was that the safe haven enterprise visa would be attached to regional areas. Mr Wilden will correct me, but I don't think any metropolitan capital city is otherwise captured. Are any major capital cities captured?

Mr Wilden: Not the major capitals. I think Hobart is not captured.

Mr Pezzullo: Are any cities captured in the SHEV that you might describe as a non-capital large city?

Mr Wilden: No.

Mr Pezzullo: The idea, Senator, is to support regional employment and regional study. I don't want to get myself into the mind of the minister, but he might be concerned, I suspect-Minister Stoker has taken this on notice-that once you create that precedent that a regional program can be attached to the urban city of Perth, you're not really running a regional program.

Senator PRATT: I think you will find there's some variation on that already across the country.

Mr Pezzullo: We will take it on notice whether any metropolitan city-

Senator PRATT: Further to that, I want to ask-

CHAIR: Just to confirm: Mr Pezzullo, you will take that on notice?

Mr Pezzullo: As to whether any large metropolitan capital cities have been so designated, I doubt it, but I'm going to check.

CHAIR: Thank you.

Answer —

Please see the attached answer.

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES
14 FEBRUARY 2022**

**Home Affairs Portfolio
Department of Home Affairs**

Program 2.3: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

AE22-042 - Metropolitan cities captured in the SHEV

Senator Louise Pratt asked:

Senator PRATT: There is a labour shortage in Western Australia, and that includes, for example, agricultural workers in Perth and construction workers in Perth. There's certainly no need to punish people based on an arbitrary migration zone as far as the purposes of Western Australia's labour market goes. It seems like an arbitrary attempt to set prescriptive pathways just because of the nature of arrival.

Mr Pezzullo: I don't think it's fair to couch it in those terms for this reason. When the law was changed in December 2014—that's something I can speak with direct knowledge of, because I was the secretary of the department—the arrangement the government came to, from memory, with the crossbenchers was that the safe haven enterprise visa would be attached to regional areas. Mr Wilden will correct me, but I don't think any metropolitan capital city is otherwise captured. Are any major capital cities captured?

Mr Wilden: Not the major capitals. I think Hobart is not captured.

Mr Pezzullo: Are any cities captured in the SHEV that you might describe as a non-capital large city?

Mr Wilden: No.

Mr Pezzullo: The idea, Senator, is to support regional employment and regional study. I don't want to get myself into the mind of the minister, but he might be concerned, I suspect—Minister Stoker has taken this on notice—that once you create that precedent that a regional program can be attached to the urban city of Perth, you're not really running a regional program.

Senator PRATT: I think you will find there's some variation on that already across the country.

Mr Pezzullo: We will take it on notice whether any metropolitan city—

Senator PRATT: Further to that, I want to ask—

CHAIR: Just to confirm: Mr Pezzullo, you will take that on notice?

Mr Pezzullo: As to whether any large metropolitan capital cities have been so designated, I doubt it, but I'm going to check.

CHAIR: Thank you.

Answer:

The capital cities currently designated as regional under the Safe Haven Enterprise visa (SHEV) are Canberra, Darwin, Adelaide and Hobart. Further information on SHEV regional areas is available at: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/safe-haven-enterprise-790/safe-haven-enterprise-visa-regional-area>, and the full list of of postcodes designated as regional under the SHEV is available at: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/safe-haven-enterprise-790/safe-haven-enterprise-visa-regional-area>.

When the SHEV was introduced in 2015, the then Minister for Immigration and Border Protection specified that the SHEV regional postcodes would correspond with the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) program, subject to individual states and territories opting into the visa.

Following requests from state and territory governments, subsequent Ministers have designated regional postcodes outside the definition of regional for the WHM.