

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 19 October 2011

Question: E11-017

OUTCOME 3: Access to Medical Services

Topic: RECIPROCAL HEALTH CARE AGREEMENT COVER

Written Question on Notice

Senator Cash asked:

People on a subclass 410 visa are considered temporary for tax purposes, temporary for immigration purposes, yet “visitors” for private Medical Health insurance. Given that the Medicare website states “Periods of cover; if you are a resident of the United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland, Norway or The Netherlands you are covered for the duration of your approved visit to Australia”, what is the rationale behind temporary retirees being ineligible from such RHCA cover?

Answer:

The 410 visa class was established for retirees to reside in Australia long term on the basis that they cover their own health care costs.