

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 23 February 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE15/125) - Ministerial Advisory Council - Programme 1.2 Visa and Citizenship (Administered)

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA) written:

Has the Ministerial Advisory Council been established? If so, who are the members of the Advisory Council?

a.If not, when will it be established?

b.What are the Council's Terms of Reference?

c.How will members of the Council be selected?

d.What is proposed by "simplifying sponsorship arrangements"?

e.What is proposed by "change English language requirements"?

g.What is proposed by "reforming the Employer Nomination and Regional Migration Schemes"?

Answer:

The Government announced its response to the Independent Review into Integrity in the 457 Programme on 18 March 2015.

The Government will act on the recommendations of the 457 Integrity Review to strengthen integrity in the programme, while also reducing cost and burden on employers needing to access the programme to address genuine skill shortages.

The Government has supported-in-principle the reinstatement of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Skilled Migration. The revised membership and terms of reference has not yet been announced.

The Department will act on the recommendations of the 457 Integrity Review by extending the sponsorship approval period for start-up businesses from 12 months to 18 months. The sponsorship approval period for other businesses will also be extended from three to five years.

The Government's response to the Independent Review into Integrity in the 457 programme is available at www.immi.gov.au/pub-res/Pages/reviews-and-inquiries/independent-review-457-programme.aspx