

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 08 February 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE16/101) - Commissioned Reports - Internal Product (DIBP)

Senator Ludwig, Joe (L&CA) written:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. How many reports (including paid external advice) have been commissioned by the Minister, department or agency?
 1. Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
 2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental or external staff were involved in each report and at what level?
 3. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

1. One
2. The external Review of the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT) was announced by the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, the Hon Peter Dutton MP on 23 December 2015.

The TSMIT Review is considering appropriate settings for the TSMIT. The Terms of Reference are:

- consider and advise on the factors that should be taken into account when determining settings for the TSMIT;
- determine an appropriate base level for the TSMIT, which is supported by evidence;
- consider whether TSMIT should be indexed and if so, advise on the methodology for indexation of the TSMIT (e.g. whether is it appropriate to use CPI, Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings or other indicators for indexation purposes);
- determine whether a single income threshold should apply to all occupations, sectors and circumstances, such as regional locations;
- determine the appropriate legislative mechanism for specifying the level at which the TSMIT is set; and
- consider and advise on any other relevant factors.

The Minister appointed Mr John Azarias to undertake the TSMIT Review.

Mr Azarias will provide a report to Government by the end of April 2016.

3. AUD\$80,000 in costs has been budgeted for the TSMIT Review.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection is providing Secretariat support to the TSMIT Review, which consists of one Executive Level 1 officer and other staff as required.

4. Mr Azarias will provide a report to Government by the end of April 2016.