

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

**ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING: 24 March 2017**

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE17/253) - Productivity Commission's Report - Programme 2.3: Visas**

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA 40) asked:

Senator PRATT: Are you preparing a response to the Productivity Commission's report?

Mr Manthorpe: I will take that on notice.

Senator PRATT: You do not know that either? Okay. I will ask a series of questions on notice if you can take them verbally.

Mr Manthorpe: Sure.

Senator PRATT: When will that response be provided to the Productivity Commission? Have you sought advice from the Foreign Investment Review Board and, prior to July 2015, the ATO regarding the number of SIV holders who have applied to purchase residential property since the inception of the visa in 2012?

Mr Manthorpe: We are happy to take all of that on notice.

Senator PRATT: Do you understand the nub of the concern, which is, essentially, that there are people seeking to be able to access visas that are not, in the main, investing productively in the economy but are merely picking up housing assets as a way of accessing a visa?

Mr Manthorpe: Yes, I understand the nub of the questions, Senator. We seek to apply the conditions of the visa appropriately, but I will take on notice the matters that you raised.

*Answer:*

The Department is considering the Productivity Commission's Inquiry Report, *Migrant Intake into Australia*, and its recommendations, and will provide a response in due course.

Direct investment in residential real estate does not and has never qualified as a complying investment for the purpose of the Significant Investment Visa (SIV).

Temporary and provisional visa holders purchasing residential property post visa grant, need to receive foreign investment approval from the Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) before purchasing any residential real estate in Australia.

The FIRB investigates overseas persons and visa holders who buy property in Australia and applies its own penalties or formal disposal orders where appropriate.