

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/145) PROGRAMME – 1.3: Migration, Border Management and Citizenship

Senator Singh (L&CA 104) asked:

Senator SINGH: Do you have any detail at all about what procedures they are or what the criteria are for these visas? Can I get any detail about medical treatment visas?

Mr Fleming: I do not have that with me.

Senator SINGH: Nothing at all?

Mr Fleming: I will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The Medical Treatment visa is to provide a temporary visa option for persons seeking medical treatment in Australia. The main requirements for grant of the visa are that:

- the applicant is seeking medical treatment (including consultation), other than for the purposes of surrogate motherhood. Applicants need to provide evidence of this through a medical treatment plan;
- the arrangements to carry out the treatment (or consultation) must be concluded;
- the applicant is not a threat to public health;
- arrangements for the payments of all costs are concluded, including expenses of person accompanying the applicant;
- payment of costs will not be charged to the Australian Government, unless evidence is provided that relevant government authority has approved the payment of those costs;
- no Australian citizen/permanent resident will be disadvantaged;
- the applicant genuinely intends to stay temporarily in Australia for the purpose for which the visa is granted;
- the applicant has, or has access to, adequate means of support; and
- the applicant satisfies public interest criteria including character, integrity and (if applicable) parental responsibility requirements.

A person may also be eligible for a medical treatment visa if they are:

- an organ donor;
- coming to Australia as a patient under arrangements between the Queensland Department of Health and the Western Province of Papua New Guinea; or
- in Australia, aged 50 years or older, have been refused a permanent visa on health grounds and are unfit to depart Australia.