

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/166) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Carr (Written) asked:

Please describe the steps that are required to become a registered migration agent?

- Have these changed since 7 September 2013?
- If so, why?

Answer:

Applicants for initial registration as a registered migration agent (RMA) are required to meet the following requirements to be eligible for registration:

- Knowledge – Completed the Graduate Certificate in Australian Migration Law and Practice or hold an Australian Legal Practising Certificate
- English Language
- Be a fit and proper person to give immigration assistance
- Be a person of integrity
- Hold the specified professional library
- Provide a photograph for identity purposes
- Age requirement – minimum of 18 years at time of application
- Complete the approved application form and pay the required fee for the registration type
- Citizenship/Residency – Australian Citizen; Australian Permanent Resident or New Zealand Citizen holding a special category visa (subclass444)
- Not have been refused registration within 12 months of applying
- Not have had a previous registration cancelled within five years of applying
- Not have previously been barred from registering unless the barred period has expired
- Not have had a previous registration suspended unless the suspension has expired.
- Not be related by employment to someone who is not a person of integrity.

The details of persons seeking initial registration are also published on the Authority's website to allow the public to raise objections to the registration of these applicants.

Additionally, the Authority registers persons who apply for registration under the *Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997 (TTMRA)*. The TTMRA recognises equivalent occupations in New Zealand and Australia.

There has been one change in relation to requirements for registration as a migration agent since 7 September 2013.

An English language requirement for agents seeking repeat registration was to have come into effect on 1 January 2014. This requirement was removed on 5 December 2013. The change was made to simplify the re-registration process.