

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 25 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/004) - QON-BE15/004-Safe haven enterprise visa - Programme 1.4: IMA Onshore Management

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 21) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: There are some new visa classes being put in place, aren't there? Safe haven enterprise visas?

Senator KIM CARR: With regard to that particular class of visa, I do not recall seeing any detail on what that looks like.

Mr Pezzullo: I might start. The safe haven enterprise visa was integral to the measures parliament passed in December that also saw the reinstatement of temporary protection visas. SHEVs, as we describe them, are an alternative pathway for IMAs and indeed—I think, from memory—for other specified categories of unauthorised arrivals to commit to living, learning or earning in regional parts of Australia. This is still being worked through with state and territory jurisdictions. If they can successfully accomplish that over a 3½ out of five year period and if they do not draw on income support over that time or if they undertake approved learning, the government agreed and the parliament passed relevant legislation which would see people in that stream be able to apply for permanent residency not of a permanent protection character—that is, any other form of permanent residency. Mr Manthorpe will assist me here, but I think the legislation was given royal assent a few months ago. We have been in discussions with employer groups and states and territories about who might be interested in—

Senator KIM CARR: Which employer groups?

Mr Pezzullo: I would have to take the detail on notice. We have been in discussions with a number of parties—including states and territories, just to make sure they are aware of the potential for workers to go into regional areas, because that will require a draw on state services, obviously.

Answer:

Participation in the Safe Haven Enterprise visa (SHEV) scheme is a decision that rests with state and territory governments. As such, the department has not actively engaged with any businesses or business groups to encourage participation.

Where businesses or business groups express interest in the scheme the department provides background information and the contact details of the relevant state or territory government SHEV representatives.