

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO**

#### **(BE15/092) - Productivity Commission Report - Programme 2.3: Visas**

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 81) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: I appreciate that. I would be interested specifically in regard to the questions raised in the Productivity Commission report. Have you had any follow-up on that report that specifically went to this program?

Senator KIM CARR: I understand that you have provided advice to government. I would be interested to know what form of advice you could provide to the committee in regard to the issues raised by the Productivity Commission's recent report in direct relation to the SVP program.

Mr Wilden: I do not think it would be appropriate for me to advise the committee, given we have put to the government our findings and we do not have a response from the government yet.

Senator Cash: We can take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: Will you take that on notice? I would like to know what advice you can provide to the committee. I am not asking you to provide—

#### ***Answer:***

In November 2014, the Department commenced formal consultations with external stakeholders regarding the future directions for streamlined visa processing (SVP) arrangements. As part of this process, the Department circulated a discussion paper to key stakeholders.

The feedback that the Department has received from stakeholders in response to the discussion paper is consistent with some of the feedback that stakeholders provided to the Productivity Commission about the SVP arrangements. The Department's advice to Government reflects feedback received from stakeholders as well its own evaluation of SVP.